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# PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

106 Washington Avenue, Plainview, New York 11803



## *Office of Business and Finance*

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Date: May 2017

Re: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian;

This letter serves as an update to our last correspondence on this topic dated February 7, 2017. Our School District is committed to protecting our students, teachers and staff's health. To protect our community, and in response to growing concerns regarding lead in drinking water, the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District retained the services of an environmental consultant firm in May 2016 to voluntarily perform sampling of all High Priority Water Sources. These are water sources that are regularly used for drinking or cooking. Any drinking water sources that revealed concentrations of lead above the Federal Guideline action level of 15 parts per billion (15 ppb) were immediately removed from service, remedial actions were performed, and water sources returned to service only after resampling results revealed a concentration of lead below the action level. The laboratory report issued by the environmental consultant for this sampling has been posted on the district's website and has been available in all school Main Offices since November 2016.

On September 6, 2016 the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) adopted an emergency regulation entitled Lead Testing in School Drinking Water (10 NYCRR Subpart 67-4) mandating school districts perform sampling for the presence of lead of all potable water fixtures currently, or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes in their buildings. Although this emergency regulation generally required the same testing methodology as the federal guidelines previously performed by the school district, it did impose a stricter action level for lead, and also required specific community and health department agency notifications and additional sampling. The school district again retained the services of the environmental consultant to ensure our compliance with this new emergency regulation.

Federal and state regulations indicate that water having a lead content level below 15 parts per billion (15ppb) is safe for consumption. Sources that tested with lead levels above the action level of 15 ppb were immediately removed from service, unless the source was a sink faucet needed for handwashing, cleaning or instruction. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking.

A complete set of lab results for each public school building from our most recent battery of testing and additional resources regarding this topic can be found at <http://www.pobschools.org/Page/6262>. For information on reducing lead in drinking water, including what homeowners can do in their homes, please visit the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

Please know that the school district has also implemented various other controls and policies to ensure our continued compliance with the new state emergency regulation. Additionally, the district will voluntarily continue to perform periodic, random sampling and testing of water sources in each school building to measure the effectiveness of our remediation program and to monitor for the presence of lead.

If you have questions, please direct them to Richard Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent for Business, at (516) 434-3050 or [RCunningham@POBSchools.org](mailto:RCunningham@POBSchools.org).