

August 18, 2016

Southampton UFSD District Wide Lead in Water Testing

Dear Southampton School Community,



Over the last several months, the quality of institutional water has been of great concern throughout the state and nation. The health and safety of our school community, including our students and staff and visitors to our building, is our top priority. To protect our community, the Southampton School District has spent the last few weeks collecting samples and analyzing our water sources.

Working with Enviroscience, a regional environmental consulting firm, the district tested its drinking water lead. Traditional sources of consumable water such as water fountains and kitchen sinks were tested. The district took the added precautionary step of testing sinks in bathrooms, classrooms and laundry rooms, as well as slop sinks. Additionally, hose bibs were tested where the district felt there was a chance someone might drink from the water source. Of the 188 water samples tested districtwide, 20 sources showed levels higher than the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines for schools. Of the 20 elevated sources, 15 were located in the high school, three at the intermediate school and two were located within the district's administration building. There were no water sources that showed elevated levels at the elementary school.

For those fixtures identified as elevated, the district is following the EPA guidelines for corrective action to identify and remove sources of lead. Upon notification of the results, the district immediately took the sources offline. For those that could not be taken out of service, the district posted signs noting those areas should not be used as drinking water. The district is currently replacing fixtures with "lead-free" fixtures and will continue to retest sources and remedy until the problem is resolved. In cases where the issue cannot be completely remedied, the corrective action may include posting signage explaining that water is not for consumption.

It is important to note that our schools' water is safe. The district is currently in compliance with EPA recommendations and fully intends to comply with NYS regulations as they are introduced. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Emmett Urban, Southampton School District, 631-591-4514. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or NYS Department of Health. Copies of all of the district's water testing results are located within the Facilities Department, which is open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or it can be found on our website at www.southamptonschools.org. ([click here](#))

Sincerely,

Emmett Urban, Director of Facilities Operations

Dr. Nicholas Dyno, Interim Superintendent of Schools