



201 Main Street
Vestal, NY 13850

From the Office of the Superintendent

October 17, 2016



Updated Information on Water Testing in Vestal Schools

Dear Universal Pre-Kindergarten Community at Cub Care Children's Center,

The Vestal Central School District's highest priority is always the health and well-being of our students, staff and the community members who also utilize our facilities.

We wanted to apprise you of legislation recently signed by New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo which mandates that all schools in the state test drinking water for lead contamination.

What Does This Mean for School Districts?

Pursuant to the legislation (S.8158/A.10740), the NYS Department of Health then issued emergency regulations requiring schools to complete these tests by October 31, 2016, and to report results to parents, the state Department of Health and local government officials. As part of our commitment to providing a safe, secure environment for our students, we have complied with these newly released regulations.

Testing Requirements

All outlets currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking must be tested with a first-draw sample. In addition, beginning in the year 2020, the water tests are required to be repeated every five years.

District Water Sources

In the Vestal Central School District, the water source at African Road, Clayton Avenue, Glenwood and Vestal Hills Elementary Schools, Vestal Middle School and Vestal High School is the Town of Vestal Municipal Water. Tioga Hills Elementary School receives water from the Town of Owego. Previously, schools in New York were not required to test their drinking water for lead. However, in March 2016 we voluntarily conducted random-sample testing throughout the school district. This new legislation requires all school districts in the state to test potable water for lead contamination and to develop and implement a lead remediation plan where necessary.

Results

New York State has set safe levels at 15 parts per billion. The EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) safe-level requirement is 20 parts per billion. At the Cub Care Children's Center facility, 13 water outlets were tested, including those that are not used for drinking water. A total of one outlet showed an excess lead level above 15 ppb. This finding was a non-drinking location, a custodial wash sink.

Remediation

Regardless of the source of the elevated lead levels, please be assured that this fixture has been shut off and/or marked by signage to prevent use until all necessary repairs are made. Further testing will then take place to ensure that lead levels are within the normal range before this sink is returned to use. We continue to work closely with our Broome-Tioga BOCES Safety Specialist and the Broome County Health Department to ensure that the water in all of our buildings is safe.

Questions?

Once all testing in the district is complete, a copy of the district's test results for each building will be available by visiting the home page of our website – www.vestal.stier.org. You will also find the district's Lead Remediation Plan there.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call 607-757-2231. Additional information is available at www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/child_care_providers.htm

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Ahearn
Superintendent of Schools