

# TACONIC HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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October 4, 2016

THCS D Families and Community;

On September 6, 2016 Governor Cuomo signed a law requiring all schools to conduct water testing to determine the presence of lead in drinking water. On September 17, 2016 we collected water samples from over 400 water outlets which included all classroom faucets, bathroom faucets, kitchen faucets, hose bibs, drinking fountains, water coolers, and ice machines.

Due to the large volume of samples collected the lab is unable to test all of our samples at once, so they are sending us results as they become available. At this time we have received 93 of the results from our lab. Although we only have a portion of the results we believe it is important to keep our school community updated as we receive them. *The MCL (maximum contaminate level) for lead has been reduced from 20 parts per billion to 15 parts per billion per the new law.* Of the results we have received to this date we have two hand washing faucets that have tested above the MCL. Both of the hand washing faucets are in restrooms. One has been labeled as **non-potable water sources, do not drink**. It will still be available for hand washing purposes. The other faucet was shut off.

The locations and results are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Measurement</u>	<u>Action</u>
E122 Hand Washing Faucet	16.2 Parts per Billion	Labeled as non-potable
E191 Hand Washing Faucet	15.4 Parts per Billion	Water shut off

All of the tests conducted were first draw tests. First draw testing is conducted after a fixture has been inactive for a minimum of 8 hours, but no more than 18 hours. The water is then sampled immediately after opening the cold water valve. The Columbia County Department of Health has been notified of our findings and the District will be working with them to implement an action plan which will include retesting of the affected fixtures and replacement where necessary.

The new law requires publication of the water test results within 10 days of receipt, however we wanted to make this information available as soon as possible. We will be publishing all of the results on our website as they come in, and we will continue to provide updates. We take the effects of lead exposure for our students and staff very seriously, and we will do everything we can to remediate this situation as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Nicholas Smith, Director of Facilities at 518.325.2881. You may also contact the Columbia County Health Department at 518.828.3358.

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Superintendent of Schools