

TACONIC HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



73 County Route 11A, Craryville, NY 12521
518.325.2800
www.taconichills.k12.ny.us

Dr. Neil L. Howard, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
518.325.2890
Fax: 518.325.2893

Sandra J. Gardner
Director of Instruction & Staff Development
518.325.2805
Fax: 518.325.2808

Cybil C. Howard
Business Manager
518.325.2810
Fax: 518.325.2817

Jack Costello
Director of Pupil Personnel Services
518.325.2850
Fax: 518.325.2853

John V. Gulisane, Jr.
Elementary School Principal
518.325.2820
Fax: 518.325.2825

Jane Case
Elementary School Assistant Principal
518.325.2820
Fax: 518.325.2825

James Buhrmaster
Junior/Senior High School Principal
518.325.2840
Fax: 518.325.2845

Mary D'Amico
Junior/Senior High School Assistant Principal
518.325.2840
Fax: 518.325.2845

Nicholas J. Smith
Director of Facilities II
518.325.2880
Fax: 518.325.2884

Richard J. Viebrock
Supervisor of Transportation
518.325.2870
Fax: 518.325.2874

John Dodds
Coordinator of Computer Technology
518.325.2877
Fax: 518.325.2878

Pamela A. Strompf
Food Service
518.325.2885
Fax: 518.325.2884

Angela Webster
Athletic Director
518.325.2896

Frank Jause
Assistant Athletic Director
518.325.2897

October 5, 2016

THCSD Families and Community,

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on water testing for lead levels in our District. As we continue to receive lead testing results from our lab we feel it is important to share this information with our community immediately. Full results on all of the tests are not available at this time. We will continue to post results on our website as they become available.

Our latest test results (#3) indicate above acceptable levels of lead contamination at 36 water outlets. Of these 36 outlets 31 are lab sinks located in science rooms. Two of the sinks are located in the High School kitchen. The remaining sinks are located in a restroom that is being utilized for storage. The MCL (*maximum contaminate level*) for lead is *15 parts per billion*. The lab sinks tested well above this level. The two kitchen outlets were slightly elevated with reports indicating levels at *16 parts per billion and 16.4 parts per billion*. The two kitchen faucets are not in use today, are being replaced, and these outlets will be included in follow up testing.

The laboratory sinks are not intended for drinking water purposes. To allow for the continued operation of our science program with minimal disruption to the educational process we have labeled the laboratory sinks as **non-potable water sources, do not drink.** We have also labeled the bathroom sinks in this same manner.

The full list of locations and test results are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Test Result (parts per billion)</u>	<u>Action</u>
HS Kitchen Hand Washing Faucet	16 PPB	Replaced
HS Kitchen Prep Sink	16.4 PPB	Replaced
S173 Lab Sink	22.1 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S173 Lab Sink	31.6 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S173 Lab Sink	50.8 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S173 Lab Sink	28.9 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S173 Lab Sink	32.2 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S173 Lab Sink	566 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S173 Lab Sink	30 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S175 Lab Sink	41.3 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S175 Lab Sink	34 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S175 Lab Sink	1800 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S175 Lab Sink	30.4 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S175 Lab Sink	50.2 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S175 Lab Sink	28.5 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S175 Lab Sink	34.9 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S179 Lab Sink	38.1 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S179 Lab Sink	35.8 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S179 Lab Sink	36.5 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S179 Lab Sink	39.9 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S179 Lab Sink	40.2 PPB	Labeled as non-potable

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Location	Test Result (parts per billion)	Action
S179 Lab Sink	387 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	43.7 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	59.3 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	30.8 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	174 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	34.4 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	34.7 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	39.4 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S181 Lab Sink	37.5 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S183A Bathroom Faucet	252 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S183B Bathroom Faucet	616 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S183B Bathroom Faucet	110 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S183 Lab Sink	36.5 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S183 Lab Sink	28.9 PPB	Labeled as non-potable
S183 Lab Sink	32.2 PPB	Labeled as non-potable

As you can see, we have many high samples in this round of testing. After consultation with the Columbia County DOH, we are being told that the laboratory fixtures are proving to be problematic throughout the County. They have indicated that the composition of the fixtures due to their intended use (lab testing not human consumption) as well as the goose neck shaped faucet are contributing to the high readings we are receiving. As with our previous round of results, we will be retesting all of these fixtures to ensure our readings are accurate. We will continue to work with the local Department of Health to implement remediation plans for all of the affected fixtures and keep our school community posted every step of the way.

We also received another round of results today (#4) with 45 reports and all of the results were below the acceptable levels.

In response to the results of our water testing, ***we will be hosting an Informational Meeting on Thursday, October 6th at 6:30PM in the Taconic Hills PAC.*** We will take this opportunity to present the findings received so far, discuss the course of action, and answer questions from parents and the community.

We are working diligently to resolve these issues as they are brought to our attention. Test results as well as other information about the water testing process can be viewed on the school website <http://www.taconichills.k12.ny.us/district/water.htm>. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the testing 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.

Dr. Neil L. Howard, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools