

Berlin Central

School District

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November 22, 2016

Dear Berlin Families,

As you may know, all school districts are testing for lead as part of a new state requirement. Water fixtures were independently tested by Questar III Health & Safety, and sent to a certified environmental laboratory for analysis. We have received results from the water quality testing at Berlin Elementary School.

Of the 39 water samples taken throughout Berlin Elementary School, 17 had results above the 15 parts per billion (ppb) action level set by New York State. All of the positive results were in either faucets or sinks that are not primarily used for water consumption. Details are listed below.

- Boys' Bathroom Faucet (1st Floor) - 22.7 ppb
- Boys' Bathroom Faucet (1st Floor) - 30.4 ppb
- Girls' Bathroom Faucet (1st Floor) - 25.5 ppb
- Girls' Bathroom Faucet (1st Floor) - 28.1 ppb
- Women's Faculty Bathroom Faucet - 21.9 ppb
- Room 106 Bathroom Faucet - 330 ppb
- Room 107 Sink Faucet - 21.1 ppb
- Room 108 Sink Faucet - 42.4 ppb
- Girls' Bathroom Faucet (2nd Floor) - 19.7 ppb
- Girls' Bathroom Faucet (2nd Floor) - 33.3 ppb
- Tech Office Bathroom Faucet - 29.1 ppb
- Boys' Bathroom Faucet (2nd Floor) - 23 ppb
- Boys' Bathroom Faucet (2nd Floor) - 20.1 ppb
- Boys' Bathroom Faucet (2nd Floor) - 16.6 ppb
- Room 210 Sink Faucet - 32.4 ppb
- Room 202 Sink Faucet - 80.5 ppb
- Kitchen Boiling Pot - 24.4 ppb

As soon as we received the results, we immediately informed staff that the identified faucets cannot be used for drinking water, but are safe for washing hands. Signs were placed on all faucet locations indicating that water is not for drinking purposes. The boiling pot in the kitchen has been removed from service, and that water supply is no longer operational.

The long term remediation requires planning and discussions with an architect or engineer. It is very likely that the long term solution will be to replace existing pipes and/or fixtures.

Please note that this round of water sampling tested for lead, and is separate from the PFOA letter sent home to you in early September. If you recall, despite low levels of PFOA the water fountains at BES were shut off and temporarily replaced with water coolers as a result of PFOA in the municipal water supply.

We are still awaiting action on the installation of a water filtration system on the municipal water system. When this issue is resolved, please be assured that the drinking fountains will also be tested for lead before they are officially put back into service.

In addition to sharing our test results with parents, guardians and staff, we also shared all data with the County Department of Health and Questar III's Health & Safety Service.

At Berlin Central School District, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment, and we wanted to make you aware of the results.

Please be assured that we will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that the quality of our drinking water meets the new state regulations. You may contact my office at 518-658-2690 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stephen Young

Dr. Stephen Young
Superintendent