



Newfane Central School

Operations & Maintenance Department

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Dear Residents of the Newfane School Community,

On September 6, 2016, the State of New York passed legislation requiring all public school districts to test potable water systems for lead levels and take responsive actions anywhere the levels tested above permissible limits. New York State has determined the permissible lead level in potable water to be 15 ppb (parts per billion). The US EPA permissible level is 20 ppb.

Lead was commonly used in plumbing systems for many years until the United States Congress amended the Safe Water Drinking Act in 1986 to restrict the amount of lead in plumbing solder. Congress further amended this law in 1996 to include plumbing fittings and devices. In 2011, Congress passed the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act which lowered the maximum lead content in all plumbing pipes and devices from 8% to a weighted average of .25%.

Our district has performed these lead tests on nearly 400 water sources in our buildings faucets, drinking fountains and other outlets. We have identified a small number of water sources that indicate lead levels above 15 ppb. In accordance with this new legislation, we have posted "Non-potable water. Do not drink" signs at these locations. Those signs will remain in place until we have remediated the problem and have re-tested the water source and found lead levels below the permissible NYS levels.

Our school buildings are well over 50 years old. Due to this fact, we anticipate that changing out the fixtures and associated fittings with lead-free fixtures will correct the problem. Once we have made these changes, the water will be re-tested for permissible levels.

Please be assured the water supply in Newfane Schools is safe for drinking. None of the sources showing elevated levels were sources commonly used for drinking or cooking. If you desire further information, please contact Daniel Connolly, Director of Facilities, at 778-6586.