



This letter is being sent to inform you about recent water quality testing completed in all schools in the Lackawanna City School District.

Tests conducted at Truman, Martin Road, High School, Middle School and McKinley showed an elevated level of lead in water samples from a variety of sources, including drinking fountains and sink faucets.

School officials received the water testing results after school on Friday, October 14, 2016 and the District took immediate action. All affected sources of water were immediately turned off and will remain turned off until lead levels are confirmed to be below the acceptable limit of 15 parts per billion.

Follow-up testing is currently underway to determine where the lead is coming from. Any faucets, fittings or pipes that have been identified as a source of lead will be replaced. While we wait for the tests to determine where the lead is coming from, we do know that it is not coming from the water itself. All public water is subject to regular water quality testing. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), lead enters drinking water primarily from eroding materials that contain lead, including faucets, fittings and pipes.

As a precaution, all of the affected sinks have signs posted on them and all of the drinking fountains have been shut off. The District will collaborate with engineers and environmental specialists to determine the next steps. As a follow-up, additional water testing will be conducted to determine if the replacement/remediation was successful. Affected sinks and water fountains will not be placed back in service until testing confirms that lead levels are below the acceptable limit.

According to the EPA, lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning. Parents who are concerned may wish to speak with their family physician. For more information about lead levels and drinking water, visit the EPA's website at <http://bit.ly/1TckaVX> and the New York State Department of Health's website at <http://on.ny.gov/2cEe50A>.

The health and safety of students and staff is a top priority for the Lackawanna City School District Board of Education and school administration. Please be assured that we are taking the necessary steps to address the situation and to ensure the safety of drinking water throughout the District. We will keep you informed as we learn more about where the lead is coming from, and the steps we are taking to resolve the problem.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Almasi  
Acting Superintendent