



Patchogue-Medford School District

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Dennis M. Logan, District Clerk

September 22, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please be advised that on September 6, 2016, the Governor signed into law a bill that requires school districts to test all potable water outlets for lead contamination and to take necessary actions to address any identified concerns.

In anticipation of the bill being passed into law and in response to the lead contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan, the District took the proactive measure of beginning to test potable water outlets within the District over the summer.

In July 2016, the District hired a reputable environmental consultant to test water samples districtwide. We tested 399 locations within our schools that contained potable outlets in order to determine if the lead contamination thresholds fell within the allowable ranges as defined by the Department of Environmental Protection. The results of the testing can be found on the District website at www.pmschools.org. **I ask that you please read the report carefully, as it identifies areas of concern in your child's school.**

Please be informed that the District will be taking a series of actions in response to the findings and to provide a safe environment for the students and staff. Our response includes the following actions:

1. File findings with the Department of Health;
2. Post information regarding Lead in Drinking Water and findings on the District website;
3. Notify staff and parents;
4. Educate students regarding the risks associated with lead contamination in drinking water;
5. Cap all faucets or provide water filters for potable outlets containing lead beyond the allowable thresholds;
6. Continue to test water and communicate findings as required;
7. Purchased a total of 125 water filling stations to replace old water fountains districtwide. Additional stations are in the process of being installed in all schools.

Until further notice, I strongly recommend that your child only drink water from the newly installed water filling stations located in the school building or that your child brings his/her own water bottle to school. You should also discuss the matter with your child.

Please be assured that the District recognizes the urgency of addressing this Health and Safety matter and will continue to update you as necessary.

Please also check the District website for additional information regarding lead in drinking water that has been published by the New York State Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools