



DRYDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Dryden Central School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, Dryden Central School District tests our schools' drinking water for lead.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and day care facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

Is Our School Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' drinking water is safe. Dryden Central School District tested our drinking water for lead. Of the 315 water samples we tested, only 15 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. In other words, 95.24% of the water outlets tested did not have any lead problems. The sources that had the higher readings were not drinking water sources.

The first outlet with high lead levels was a sink in an office at Dryden Elementary School. Since this is no longer a classroom and there is no need for water, the water was simply turned off to this sink.

The second and third outlets with high lead levels were in two faucets in two reading classrooms at Dryden Middle School. These rooms were previously Family & Consumer Science and Art, but as reading rooms, the water is not used. The water had not been used for an unknown number of years. The testing in these rooms will be repeated after water has been flowing. These sinks have been labeled as non-potable water and the staff members who use these rooms are aware. Staff reported that the sinks are not used.

The fourth and fifth outlets with high lead levels were in two sinks in two bathrooms in the B-wing of Dryden MS-HS. Each of the sinks was the most remote of the four sinks in each bathroom. The testing in these rooms will be repeated after water has been flowing. These sinks have been labeled as non-potable water.

The sixth outlet with high lead levels was some of the sinks in the Chemistry classroom, G-1, at Dryden High School. These sinks are for chemistry classes only and no eating or drinking is allowed in this room. The testing in these sinks will be repeated after water has been flowing. These sinks have been labeled as non-potable water and the staff member who uses this room is aware. Staff reported that the sinks are not used for eating or drinking and students have been reminded of the rules in the chemistry lab.

The seventh outlet with high lead levels was some of the sinks in the Physics classroom, G-3, at Dryden High School. These sinks are for physics classes only and no eating or drinking is allowed in this room. The testing in this room will be repeated after water has been flowing. These sinks have been labeled as non-potable water and the staff member who uses this room is aware. Staff reported that the sinks are not used for eating or drinking and students have been reminded of the rules in the physics lab.

The eighth outlet with high lead levels was the teacher's work station Biology classroom, G-2, at Dryden High School. This sink is for biology classes only and no eating or drinking is allowed in this room. The testing of this sink will be repeated after water has been flowing. This sink has been labeled as non-potable water and the staff member who uses this room is aware. Staff reported that the sinks are not used for eating or drinking and students have been reminded of the rules in the biology lab.

The ninth outlet with high lead levels was the teacher's work station Biology classroom, G-4, at Dryden High School. This sink is for science classes only and the teacher does not use the teacher's station. The testing of this sink will be repeated after water has been flowing. This sink has been labeled as non-potable water and the staff member who uses this room is aware. Staff reported that the sink is not used for eating or drinking and students have been reminded of the rules in the science lab.

When we found high lead levels at 15 water outlets, we made sure no one used those outlets until we had fixed the lead problems or disabled the outlet permanently.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at the school district's central office, which is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and on our Web site (www.dryden.k12.ny.us) under "District – SED Plans." For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Rob Medeiros, Director of Facilities, (607) 844-8694, ext. 9241. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,



Sandra R. Sherwood
Superintendent of Schools

C: Board of Education
Administrators
Rob Medeiros, Director of Facilities