



Pearl River School District

135 West Crooked Hill Road
Pearl River, New York 10965
www.pearlriver.org
Phone: 845-620-3920 Fax: 845-620-3927
pochintestam@pearlriver.org



Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

October 20, 2016

Dear Pearl River School District Community,

On September 6, 2016 new legislation was enacted that required school districts to conduct tests for the presence of lead in water sources that could be used for drinking. The new legislation called for a testing regimen that went above and beyond what we had independently and voluntarily completed in late June of 2016. You may recall that the testing conducted in June included all drinking fountains, sinks in school nurse's offices, and cafeteria sinks.

The new legislation also contained more stringent requirements that reduced acceptable levels of lead in terms of parts per billion (ppb) in drinking water. With the assistance of Rockland County BOCES, and the professional service of *Adelaide Environmental Health Associates, Inc.*, the District undertook and completed the new round of testing. We have preliminary information that allows us to respond to potential problem areas and share the results of the testing conducted in September. A full report has not yet been received by the District. We are awaiting results for Lincoln Avenue Elementary and a portion of results for Pearl River High School is also outstanding.

The following covers what we know at this point:

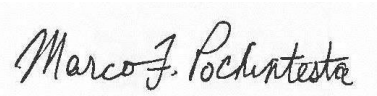
- All sinks located in classrooms in all schools were tested and two were found to be above the acceptable limits. These sinks are located in classroom bathrooms in Rooms 6 and 21 at Franklin Avenue Elementary School. Each of these sinks has been taken out of service and a second round of testing for these sinks is being scheduled. If the sinks continue to test above the limits they will be replaced or remediated with new parts and tested again before being put back into service.
- Results received so far for sinks in lavatories located in school halls indicate that they meet the specified standards for drinking water with one exception. A Lincoln Avenue hallway lavatory for boys has one sink, which passed under the previous standard, but does not meet the new requirements. This sink will remain out of service pending the protocol of remediation, or replacement, and retesting.
- The test results for utility sinks in science labs show that a disproportionate number of these sinks were above the allowable limits compared to other types of outlets. These sinks located at Pearl River Middle School and Pearl River High School have been designated non-potable outlets. Each of these sinks has been marked with a sign advising that it is not a source for drinking water. Staff and students that use these spaces have been advised that the utility sinks are not for drinking water. State regulations allow for schools to assign this designation.

- One water fountain in Classroom 3 at Franklin Avenue which passed on the first round of testing, does not meet the new standard and will remain out of service pending the protocol of remediation or replacement, and a second test.

Please be assured that the health and safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority. The District is working to ensure that all of its potable water outlets are safe. Any potable water outlet that does not currently meet new standards will remain out of service until test results confirm it is safe for use. We expect to achieve this objective by addressing each of the identified outlets by mid-November.

Please also expect more information on this subject as final results and complete reports are available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco J. Pochintesta". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light gray rectangular background.