

Updated Message About Water Testing in Bethpage Schools- November 9, 2016

As an update to our earlier message regarding lead testing of water, there are no major issues to report.

As reported back in June, all faucets at Charles Campagne, Kramer Lane and Bethpage High School received good reports from our independent Environmental Consultant J.C. Broderick. As of last week, there is one faucet at Central Blvd. and one at JFK Middle School that have been turned off since early June when we received word they exceeded the EPA threshold and while we attempted to repair the problem.

Recall that back in June parents were informed that nine faucets at Central Blvd and JFK exceeded the threshold in our first round of testing done in May. We replaced all those faucets. At the Board of Education's request we went even further and replaced all faucets that were of a similar model just to be safe. We then retested all the faucets again.

- There remains one faucet in one classroom at Central Blvd. Elementary School (Room 205) that exceeds the threshold. That faucet has been turned off since early June when we initially received the report and we are looking to see where the source of the problem is located.
- There is also a faucet in the JFK Kitchen that has exceeded the threshold. That faucet has also been turned off since early June. While we did replace that faucet, it too has tested above the threshold. It will remain off until the issue can be corrected.

In all we tested almost 300 faucets used by students and staff for drinking or cooking. We have two that continue to pose a problem and we are implementing remediation plans. It cannot be emphasized enough- those faucets have been turned off since early June and no child nor staff member has used them since that time.

The Board of Education initiated these tests prior to it being required by law. Now, in keeping with the newest state legislation, we will soon be testing water sources that are not used for drinking or food preparation (e.g., outside sprinklers, faucets in bathrooms and science labs). Once we receive those testing results, we will share them with residents.

Based on what we are hearing from other districts, having only two faucets currently turned off means we are faring better on these tests than others, but the safety of our students and staff remain our most important priority and we will continue to be vigilant in finding the solution to these two faucets.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Clark, Superintendent of Schools at tclark@bethpage.ws.