



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Box 367, Roslyn, NY 11576 516-801-5001 Fax 516-801-5008 www.roslynschools.org

Allison Brown
Superintendent of Schools

January, 2020

Dear Harbor Hill Parents & Staff,

You may recall that in 2016, New York State mandated school districts to test for lead in water. Eager to ensure that no one is being exposed to elevated lead levels, especially children, Roslyn conducted tests even before the law went into effect, and we found no serious problems. Now, the state is requiring schools to conduct an additional round of testing, and we have once again undertaken these tests right away throughout the district.

Samples were taken by a certified environmental testing company from both potable outlets (water used for drinking and cooking) and non-potable outlets throughout Harbor Hill School. **I am pleased to report that these most recent tests did not find elevated lead levels in any drinking fountains at Harbor Hill School or any other source of water that is used primarily for drinking or cooking.**

We did find lead levels that were higher than the EPA or state standards in **four sink faucets**. Though regulations permit non-potable faucets to be used as long as they are labeled for non-drinking use, we do not consider this sufficient. All four were immediately removed from service, and pipes and faucets have already been replaced, as necessary. No outlet is returned to service until re-testing confirms compliance with both federal and state guidelines.

The EPA recommends letting "the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused more than six hours." Even if there is an elevated lead level in tap water, after running it for 30 seconds or more, levels usually drop well below acceptable standards.

It is not surprising that we are finding elevated lead levels in a few locations, since our buildings were all built decades ago when water quality standards were not as strict as they are today. We are committed to protecting the health of our students and staff. Every school has at least one water filtering station, and additional stations are planned. I can assure you that we continue to go above and beyond the minimum requirements to ensure water quality, and are taking action immediately whenever and wherever issues are found. Not only did we not find any serious issues in this latest round of testing, but the minor issues we did find have already been remediated.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more details about the testing, please contact Thomas Szajkowski, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration and Special Projects, at 801-5450. Testing is now complete in all three of our elementary schools. We are currently awaiting results for the middle and high school. When testing is complete district-wide, the report will be posted at www.roslynschools.org/notices.

Sincerely,

Allison Brown
Superintendent of Schools