

Catherine Huber, Ed.D.

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Northern Catskills Occupational Center  
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January 13, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

On Sept. 6, 2016, a state law went into effect that requires all public-school districts and BOCES to test water for lead. The law requires the sampling of all water outlets currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes in buildings that may be occupied by students and to submit those samples to a state-approved lab for analysis.

The state established an action level of 15 micrograms of lead per liter, typically referred to as 'parts per billion (ppb).' To put this number into perspective, the NYS Department of Health uses the 15 ppb action level to promote remediation of a water outlet rather than to identify a health-based or exposure level.

Otsego Northern Catskills Occupational center completed the required sampling on Dec. 16, 2020.

The samples were taken from water outlets that included: drinking fountains, classrooms faucets/sinks, and the cafeteria's outlets. All 50 samples were collected based on the US EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and were sent to a Department of Health approved laboratory for analysis.

The results of the initial sampling returned to OAOC late last week have identified two locations as above the 15 parts per billion action level.

They are:

Sample Location	Lead Level (in parts per billion)
Sap SL	650.0
Sap SR	47.4

These locations were immediately taken out of service and follow up testing is being conducted. They will not be placed back into service until remediation can be conducted and post-remediation sampling indicates they are in compliance.

According to the state Department of Health, lead is a common metal found in the environment, but it is also a toxic material that can be harmful if ingested or inhaled. Although the primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint, exposure can also come from drinking water as a result of the lead content of plumbing materials and source water.

If you have any questions about lead exposure or testing for lead exposure, please contact your family physician. You may also access more information, including full test results, at [www.oncboces.org](http://www.oncboces.org). If you have any questions about the testing, you may contact NCOC Principal Crystal Trask 607-588-6291.

Please be assured that Otsego Area Occupational Center continues to be proactive in efforts to keep our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Huber, Ed.D.  
ONC BOCES District Superintendent