

Catherine Huber, Ed.D.

District Superintendent
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Northern Catskills Occupational Center
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Grand Gorge, NY 12434
607-588-6291

January 13, 2021

Dear Superintendent:

As you are aware, on Sept. 6, 2016, a state law went into effect that requires all public-school districts to test water for lead. BOCES facilities are not exempt from this new law.

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 Area 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.

ONC BOCES notified all of its staff and faculty, and sent letters to the parents and/or guardians of all students who attend classes or receive services at Otsego Area Occupational Center in accordance with the notification requirement under the state law.

You may access more information, including full test results, at www.oncboces.org. If you have any questions about the testing, you may contact OAOC Principal Crystal Trask 607-588-6291

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

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

