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Dear Families and Staff:

This is a follow up to my December 19 letter outlining the additional measures the New York City Department of Education (DOE) is taking to ensure that the water in New York City schools is safe for students and staff.

On **December 7, 2016**, every potential source of water for drinking or preparing food at **P.S. 154 - Brooklyn** (The Windsor Terrace School at 1625 11th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11215) was tested for lead. The laboratory results showed elevated levels of lead in **2 of the 53 samples** of water taken and tested from outlets in the building. A more detailed letter related to the testing for lead at P.S. 154 is attached, and complete test results are posted on the DOE website.

In any building where lead test results show even one water outlet above the action level of 15 parts per billion, the DOE will implement its standard response protocol, under which it removes any such outlet from service, flushes all or part of the system to eliminate water sitting in pipes overnight, replaces equipment and re-tests after the equipment is replaced.

Each affected fixture at P.S. 154 will remain out of service until it is remediated and future testing shows that the water does not have an elevated level of lead. The custodial staff will also continue to flush the P.S. 154 water systems on Monday mornings before school starts in order to eliminate water that has been stagnant in pipes over the weekend and to ensure safe drinking water is available for students and staff.

Please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/watersafety.htm> to learn more about the robust protocol we use to ensure the safety of drinking water in each and every school, as well as to look up water test results for their child's school.

We will keep you updated on the remediation work at P.S. 154, and thank you for your patience and support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Rose'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Elizabeth A. Rose

A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND STAFF
P.S. 154 - BROOKLYN
THE WINDSOR TERRACE SCHOOL AT 1625 11TH AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11215
LEAD TESTING OF SCHOOL DRINKING WATER
January 5, 2017

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 15 micrograms per liter (µg/L), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What are the results of the first draw testing?

Samples Collected on 12/07/2016				
Floor	Function/ Space	Room	Fixture Type	Sample Results
BS	Cafeteria	Cafeteria	Hose Bib 1	53.1 ppb
BS	Cafeteria	Cafeteria	Hose Bib 2	236 ppb

What is being done in response to the results?

All drinking and cooking water outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (15 ppb) were removed from service, and are being remediated.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors; for example, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results go to:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/watersafety.htm>

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (available in ten languages).