

SOUTH SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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In light of recent local and national news reports about lead levels in drinking water, and as part of the South Seneca Central School District's commitment to protecting the health of students and staff, all drinking water sources throughout the district were voluntarily tested April 23. Although such testing is not required, South Seneca CSD, in partnership with the Seneca County Department of Environmental Health, sampled 74 water sources throughout the district. Each sample was collected following county health department guidelines.

Of the 74 water samples tested, six showed lead levels that exceeded the New York State Department of Health's maximum contaminant level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). The following outlets were identified for having lead levels beyond the DOH's threshold:

- **South Seneca Elementary School**

Water fountain in Room 133 (computer lab) – 17 ppb

Water fountain in Room 134 (music room) – 27 ppb

Water fountain in Room 135 (primary project, work room) – 19 ppb

Sink in Room 112 (SSAFE room, kitchenette; adult use) – 21 ppb

- **South Seneca Middle/High School**

Ice machine in Loading Dock– 720 ppb

Ice machine in Athletic Storage Room– 150 ppb

Upon receipt of these results, the district has turned off the identified water fountains in the elementary school, which had already received historically low use due to their locations. These fountains will remain inaccessible. The sink faucet that produced elevated lead levels was primarily used by staff members and is also no longer in use.

At the high school, the ice machine in the receiving/loading dock area was primarily used to keep goods cold (e.g., under the salad bar). The other ice machine was used by athletic teams. Both machines have been taken off line, and an alternate source of ice has been identified for our student-athletes. A re-test of the machine occurred earlier this week, and pending results, a long term solution will be implemented. The re-tests include the ice itself (not tested previously), and a second test of the intake source.

In addition to terminating service to the affected water sources, the district will continue working with the county Health Department to conduct future testing to protect the health of our students and staff. We will monitor water sources until all lead test results are within the state's recommended range.

Thank you,

Steve Parker Zielinski

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