

Fort Ann Central School

Dear Families and Staff:

The health and safety of students and staff at Fort Ann Central School is our number one priority. On September 6, 2016 Governor Cuomo signed legislation which requires all public schools in New York State to test all outlets for cooking and drinking water to be sampled for lead every 5 years. This requirement was updated to have all water sources for cooking and drinking be sampled between January 2020 and December 2020. Due to COVID-19, the deadline to complete sampling was extended to June 30, 2021 as water outlets were not being used when facilities were shut down. Due to COVID-19 the Fort Ann Central School District installed hands free bottle filling stations in both schools. These stations provide a fresh supply of filtered water for our students, eliminating the need for traditional drinking fountains throughout the school year. The Fort Ann Central School District contracted with Adirondack Environmental Services to analyze water samples in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 3-T's protocol.

On the morning of 6/18/2021, samples from a total of 182 sources of water were collected within the school district. The District obtained the results on 7/2/2021. All sources tested, except the 3 noted below, are in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Health Action Level for schools. The maximum contamination level (MCL) set by the EPA and NYSDOH is 15 parts per billion (ppb). Testing identified elevated lead levels at the following location:

Location/Source(Teacher's Name)	Lead Level – parts per billion (ppb)
102E/Sink (Mrs. Emily Woods)	2450
102F/Water Fountain (Mrs. Emily Woods)	70.8
106A/Sink (Mrs. Meghan Theis)	24.0

Upon receiving the analytical results, the district took immediate action. The sinks that tested above the action level has been labeled as HAND WASHING ONLY. **(PLEASE NOTE: These sinks have only been used for hand-washing throughout the school year and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that water with elevated lead levels is safe for hand washing. The water fountain in Mrs. Woods room was not in use throughout the 2020-2021 school year, and will be shut down until it meets the MCL level set by the EPA and NYSDOH.**

While we know that this information may cause some concern, we are taking the necessary steps to address the situation and confirm the safety of water throughout the district. There is nothing that we take more seriously than the well-being of our students and staff. Please contact Craig Masten, Director of Facilities and Operations at cmasten@fortannschool.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin Froats
Superintendent of Schools