



# Southern Cayuga Central School

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Dear SCCS Staff, Students & Families:

As you may know, the Southern Cayuga Central School District is also a public water system because we are responsible for providing you with water at this location and ensuring that the drinking water we provide to you meets state and federal standards. We collected drinking water samples for lead at this location on September 28, 2021. The lead levels of the samples collected are listed in the following table. We are happy to report that the 90th percentile value for our water system is below the lead action level of 15 parts per billion.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Result in ppb (parts per billion)</u>
Water cooler in hall next to Room 510	<1 ppb
Elementary Faculty Room	4 ppb
Sink in Elementary Nurse's Office	5 ppb
Sink in room Elementary Art Room	<1 ppb
Elementary Kitchen	<1 ppb
Sink in Room E526	1 ppb
Sink in Business Office	<1 ppb
Water Cooler in hall next to Room 215	<1 ppb
High School Kitchen	6 ppb
High School Faculty Room	8 ppb
Water cooler in hall next to Room 329	<1 ppb
Water cooler in hall next to Room 405	<1 ppb

### **What Does This Mean?**

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow*. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is *the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health*. *MCLGs allow for a margin of safety*.

### **What Are The Health Effects of Lead?**

*Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.*

### **What Are The Sources of Lead?**

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead contaminated dust, and lead contaminated residential soil. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Although our facility's lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposure in your home, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

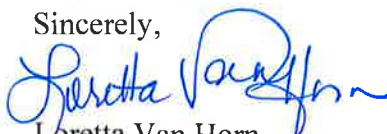
### **What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?**

- ▶ ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds [or insert a different flushing time if your system has representative data indicating a different flushing time would better reduce lead exposure in your community and if the State approves the wording] or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
- ▶ ***Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.***
- ▶ ***Do not boil water to remove lead.***

### **For More Information**

Call us at 315-364-8711, ext 1103. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the Cayuga County Health Department, 8 Dill Street, Auburn, NY 13021; 315-253-1560, or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1 800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at (518) 402-7650, or by email at [bpwsp@health.state.ny.us](mailto:bpwsp@health.state.ny.us). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

Sincerely,



Loretta Van Horn

Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations