State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

ALLISON BLAKE, PH.D., L.S.W.
Commissioner

April 29, 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

Our schools are committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, we recently tested water at each of our sixteen regional schools.

Water samples were collected from representative locations. Locations were selected based on where consumption is likely (i.e. kitchen, faculty room, water fountains). Two samples were collected at each location. The first sample is a first-draw sampled collected from the tap after a minimum six hour resting period. The second is a flush sample collected after running water for 30 seconds.

Your child's school was among those in which elevated levels of lead were found in certain locations. Therefore, we have taken the following steps to address this issue:

- We are providing bottled water for drinking, medication, and food preparation;
- Water fountains have been turned off;
- In locations where water needs to remain on for non-consumption, we have placed signs advising that the water is safe for non-consumption, but not for drinking or food preparation.

Because of the steps we have taken, parents can be assured that the water and food at your child's school is safe.

Although protective measures are in place, we will implement additional system-wide testing of all water from any outlet not included in the original sample. Thereafter we will begin corrective action on all affected sites. We will continue to communicate with you throughout this process, and will provide regular updates on water testing and specific measures the district is taking to remedy the situation.

I am sure you have questions, so we are distributing a fact sheet from the New Jersey Department of Health about lead in drinking water at schools and child care centers. If you have remaining questions, please call your school's principal.

We are working with the New Jersey Department of Health to provide free on-site lead testing to all students who wish to take advantage of this service. We will share details and information about how your child can receive a free test shortly.

Please know we are committed to ensuring the safety of all our students, and we are actively working with all our state partners to see that all corrective steps are completed promptly.

Sincerely,

Kelley Michalowski

Kelley Michalowski
Acting Director
Office of Education
Department of Children and Families

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
REGIONAL SCHOOL
MORRIS CAMPUS – TEC PROGRAM
15 JEAN STREET
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960
TEL: (973) 631-6410
FAX: (973) 631-6415

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August 16, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Following up on our letter of April, 2016, please be advised that the NJ Department of Health will be coming to the school on Thursday, September 1st, 2016 to conduct blood level testing of all students whose parents provide consent.

If you are interested in your child receiving a blood lead level test, please complete the attached consent form and return it to school with your child.

Please note that blood lead level testing cannot be conducted without a completed consent form, therefore, please have your child return the completed form to school as soon as possible.

Regards,

Marveen Barnes
Marveen Barnes
Site Administrator/Education Program Coordinator