November 16, 2016

Dear Cherry Hill Public Schools Community Members,

As was publicized on November 2, 2016, the Cherry Hill Public Schools in October began state-mandated testing of water from all of the potable water outlets in our 19 schools. The results of the first round of tests are posted on our web site. Updates will be added as we receive more results.

Our plan to minimize our students’ and staff’s exposure to lead in the water in all of our buildings includes the following:

1. Eliminate “bubblers” (water fountains) in all classrooms serving students in grades 1 and higher.
2. Replace plumbing fixtures and install localized filtration on bubblers in Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms where any lead was detected.
3. Put signs on all classroom sinks indicating they are to be used for handwashing only.
4. Replace plumbing fixtures in and install localized filtration on any faculty rooms, nurses’ offices and kitchen sinks where any lead was detected.
5. Replace water fountains where any lead was detected with filtered water stations that include both a bottle filling mechanism and a traditional water fountain. (Alternately, water fountains may be removed from service). The number of water stations per building will be based on building occupancy levels (1 water station per 100 occupants).

Any plumbing fixture that is replaced will be re-tested for lead. The district will continue to update the public about the status and the progression of this plan as it is implemented.

I am grateful to the district staff and to the many community members who have participated in discussions regarding the development of this plan. If you are concerned about lead exposure at your school or in your home, I encourage you to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Meloche, Ed. D.
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

Please click here for a chart detailing the results of the Cherry Hill Public Schools water tests to date.