

Dear Families and Staff:

The health and safety of students and staff at Ballard Elementary School is our number one priority. On Sept. 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 has been extended to June 30, 2021, as water outlets were not being used when facilities were shut down. Due to COVID-19 the South Glens Falls Central School District installed hands-free bottle filling stations in all schools. These stations provide a fresh supply of filtered water for our students, eliminating the need for many traditional drinking fountains. The 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 June 18, 2021, samples from a total of 51 sources of water were collected at Ballard Elementary School and the district obtained the results on July 1, 2021. All sources tested, except the 1 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)
Blue Hallway – Boy's gang bathroom sink (on left)	27.7

Upon receiving the analytical results, the district took immediate action. The sink 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.**

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 wellbeing of our students and staff. Please contact Director of Facilities and Operations Steffen Buck, at bucks@sgfcsd.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael Huchro, Principal
Ballard Elementary School