



Office of the Chancellor

52 Chambers Street  
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212 374 0200 Tel  
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August 31, 2016

Dear Families and Staff:

As a follow up to our communications earlier this year, we want to reassure you that New York City water is extraordinarily safe, including the water in each school building.

New York City's water meets or exceeds all federal and State standards. The City regulates its own watershed that surrounds — and protects — our reservoirs, and the water is tested over 500,000 times each year at various points throughout the system. Beyond these measures, the New York City Department of Education works with City agencies, including the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Environmental Protection, to ensure our students have access to safe drinking water in schools. There has not been a single case of lead poisoning from water in our schools.

There are a number of proactive, ongoing measures the City takes to ensure that the water in New York City schools is safe for students and staff.

We lowered the amount of lead – from 20ppb to 15ppb – required to fix or replace problematic equipment. This safeguard threshold is now below what the Environmental Protection Agency recommends.

We have invested more than \$10 billion over the last decade to maintain and improve our water supply infrastructure. Beginning in 2008, we began an aggressive effort to remove lead service lines from public buildings. As of today, only four schools are left to be addressed. As a result of our safeguards, less than 1% of all our samples citywide showed elevated levels of lead.

For those buildings that had even one outlet with results above recommended levels, we have been implementing a protocol, approved by the Health Department and based on the Environmental Protection Agency guidance, involving a combination of flushing and equipment replacement and re-testing to ensure the safety of students and faculty.

Our rigorous safeguards are constantly improving to keep our children healthy and to ensure every student and staff member is in a safe and supportive learning environment. You can visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/watersafety.htm> to search water test results for your child's school, and to get up-to-date information on the



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protocols we use to safeguard our water supply.

We look forward to welcoming your family back to school next week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen Fariña'.

Carmen Fariña  
Chancellor  
Department of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary T. Bassett'.

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner  
Department of Health and Mental  
Hygiene