

Pittsford schools find lead in some water samples

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Lead was found in water samples gathered in six of the nine schools in the Pittsford Central School District, officials said Monday.

District officials said the drinking fountains and faucets where water tested positive for lead have all been disconnected, with many of them replaced and scheduled for retesting.

Pittsford joins Brighton and Penfield as suburban Monroe County school districts where lead has been detected in drinking water. Many districts, both locally and elsewhere, have begun sampling their water in the wake of the ongoing crisis with lead-contaminated water in the Michigan city of Flint.

The lead in the local districts' water fountains and faucets likely comes from internal plumbing, which can contain lead solder. None of the large public water supplies in the Rochester area is known to contain significant concentrations of lead.

In Pittsford, sampling arranged by district officials found lead in excess of federal guidelines in:

- » Four sinks and one fountain at Allen Creek Elementary School.
- » One sink and three fountains at Jefferson Road Middle School.
- » Three sinks at Mendon Center Elementary.
- » Four sinks at Park Road Elementary.
- » Two sinks at Mendon High School.
- » One drinking fountain at Barker Road Middle School.

Lead also was found in one fountain at the Lomb Building, a former private residence now used by the district for offices and meeting space.

Overall, the district said 20 of 228 samples collected in its buildings were found to contain toxic lead at levels about 15 parts per billion, which is the federal action threshold.

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