



West Orange Public Schools
179 Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
(973) 669-5400 ext. 20515 Fax (973) 243-6059

Acting Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Eveny de Mendez

STATEMENT FROM WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

UPDATE ON LEGIONELLA TESTING (December 11, 2018)

High School

Dear High School Parents and Guardians:

Initial testing for the presence of Legionella bacteria in the water system was conducted at West Orange High School in August. The building's entire water system underwent a series of super chlorination and flushing processes that were performed by an environmental consulting firm with expertise in the bacteria.

We received the retesting results after the chlorination process was completed for the High School. Seventeen (17) samples came back positive for Legionella. Nephros filters have been installed on all seventeen outlets to prevent bacteria from entering the water.

Legionella is contracted by inhaling contaminated mist. Cooling towers, hot tubs, and showers, therefore, are common places where Legionella bacteria would be of primary concern. Additionally, outlets that are infrequently used can cause Legionella to grow. Therefore, the following remediation steps have been taken for these areas.

Cooling Tower	The cooling tower at WOHS was tested in August and again in October. All water sampling results for the cooling tower came back <i>Non Detected</i> for Legionella. No remediation is necessary.
Hot Tub	Hot tub in the trainer room initially tested positive. A Nephros Filter has been installed to prevent bacteria from entering the water. This remediation effort allows for the hot tub to continue in use.
Showers	Various showers tested positive. All showers have been turned off and shower heads have been removed. Showers that are rarely used will be capped and taken off line. A select number of showers, for which we anticipate consistent and frequent use, will have Nephros Filters installed coupled with new shower heads and piping. After these installations are made showers will be placed back in use.

The health & well-being of our staff and students are our top priority. We are taking this situation very seriously and will continue to work through a long term interactive water management plan until all areas are remedied.

Please note that healthy people exposed to Legionella in drinking water are at little risk of contracting Legionnaire's disease. Drinking water poses a risk only to select individuals with underlying immune-deficiency diseases, to include those who are:

- 50 years or older
- Have lung disease, are current or former smokers or alcoholics
- Have kidney disease, diabetes or cancer
- Organ transplant recipients

During the winter recess, additional risk assessments are taking place, long term treatment options and additional chlorination processes are being evaluated, and aggressive hot and cold water flushing will be performed at West Orange High School.

Water will continue to be provided to students and staff until the short-term remediation process is completed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eveny de Mendez', written in a cursive style.

Eveny de Mendez