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**Superintendent of Schools**

**Mr. Jeffrey S. Rutzky**

## STATEMENT FROM WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### UPDATE ON LEGIONELLA TESTING (September 4, 2018)

This notice is an update on the Legionella testing at Redwood Elementary School and the district schools and facilities.

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, New Jersey American Water tested sinks and water fountains at Redwood Elementary School for coliform bacteria. The results were satisfactory in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

John Spangler, Manager Water Quality and Environmental Compliance, New Jersey American Water stated: "Water samples from Redwood Elementary School collected by New Jersey American Water on 8/30/18 met standards set forth in the Safe Drinking Water Act."

Even though the Redwood Elementary School samples meet the standard, OMEGA Environmental is scheduled to perform a disinfection procedure using a hyper-chlorinated solution on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

If samples from other schools or district facilities are positive, the hyper-chlorination disinfection procedure will be completed as well. The hyper-chlorination procedure includes the following steps: (1) chlorine is pumped into the hot water heater and remains in the hot water tank for four hours to eliminate any bacteria, (2) chlorine is then pumped through the hot water piping system and remains in the system for fourteen hours to eliminate any bacteria, (3) chlorinated water is drained from the hot water tank and hot water piping system and flushed with fresh water, (4) water samples are drawn and retested after the hyper-chlorination procedure to verify that the water again meets the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

As of Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, Garden State Environmental finished testing all of the schools, Central Office and the Bus Depot for Legionella bacteria. The results will take 7-10 days. If any samples are positive, the same remediation process completed at Redwood Elementary School will be followed.

The steps include: (1) installing filters on the water sources that tested positive, (2) replacing faucets in the affected areas, (3) proactively and temporarily covering all water fountains despite the fact that the Legionella bacteria only presents a risk from exposure to airborne droplets and not from drinking affected water, (4) removing, cleaning and sanitizing all aerators (screens) in all rooms, and (5) where possible, changes in the plumbing systems will be done to minimize the potential for future bacterial growth.

Bottled water will be available until the results are provided and if needed, steps for remediation are completed.

For additional information about Legionella, click on the links below provided by New Jersey American Water.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPLukCLREYg>

<https://amwater.com/corp/water-quality-and-wasterwater-service>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV0bmdliQjQ>