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Dear Caroline Families, Staff, and Faculty,

We're writing to give you an update on continued chloride testing of water at Caroline Elementary School. We have worked closely with the Tompkins County Health Department, who asked us to share the following:

Chloride causes no known adverse health effects. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for chloride is the level above which the taste of water may become objectionable. In addition to the adverse taste effects, high chloride concentration levels in the water contribute to the deterioration of plumbing and water heaters. Elevated chloride concentrations may also be associated with the presence of sodium in drinking water.

The New York Sanitary Code lists the MCL for Chloride at 250 mg/L.

The following test data are listed from the newest sampling (November 23, 2021) and include all tests for the previous two-plus (2+) years:

Date Sampled:	Result: (mg/L)
11-23-2021	290
05-11-2021	310
02-14-2021	290
12-05-2020	280
09-15-2020	370
05-2020	N/A*
02-04-2020	260
11-12-2019	200
09-10-2019	260
09-13-2019	270
06-11-2019	280
05-14-2019	280
11-19-2018	210
09-11-2018	240

* May 2020 testing deemed not necessary through agreement with the County Health Department due to county-wide school closures.

These results can be easily accessed on our [Ithaca City School District website](#) (under the “Caregivers” tab, select “Water Testing Information”), or requested in print from the main office.

To reiterate, there are no safety concerns associated with the elevated levels of chloride. We will continue to provide bottled water for drinking and will also be turning on the new combination bottle filler-drinking fountains. The water available from these devices is filtered.

Additionally, upon further review as part of Phase II of the approved Capital Project, the Board Facilities Committee, along with the engineers, architects, construction managers and administrators determined that a reverse osmosis water filtration system could potentially cause an increase in corrosive water. After careful review, it became apparent that there was a potential to cause an increase in lead and copper into the water supply. Therefore, given that there is no health risk associated with increased chloride levels, we collaboratively decided not to install a reverse osmosis system. **We will continue to maintain bottled water stations throughout Caroline because of this.**

As always, updates on all water testing (lead, copper, chloride) will continue to be shared via the [district website](#). Please contact Dan Breiman, Administration Officer, with any questions or concerns: (607) 274-2101 or daniel.breiman@icsd.k12.ny.us.

Sincerely,

Daniel Breiman
Administration Officer