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November 10, 2020

Dear Caroline Families, Staff, and Faculty,

We are 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 is listed from the newest sampling (September 15, 2020) and includes all tests for the previous two (2) years:

| <b>Date Sampled:</b> | <b>Result: (mg/L)</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 in 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 “District” 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. Additionally, as part of Phase II of the approved Capital Project, a reverse osmosis water filtration system will be installed which is anticipated to remedy these high readings. As usual, updates on all water testing (lead, copper, chloride) will continue to be shared via the district website.

Lastly, we want to inform you that over the weekend, the water system experienced a drop in chlorine levels resulting in a boil water order. Water is not used for cooking or drinking. The County Health Department indicated that handwashing continued to be safe. The system has been re-chlorinated to appropriate levels and we have committed to boil water if utilized for any other use until the County Health Department can schedule a retest. We will update the Caroline Elementary School website when the retest results arrive. As mentioned previously, we continue to provide bottled water for drinking.

Please contact Lily Talcott, Deputy Superintendent, with any questions or concerns: (607) 274-2134 or [lily.talcott@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:lily.talcott@icsd.k12.ny.us).

Sincerely



Lily Talcott  
Deputy Superintendent