



# ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

400 Lake Street • P.O. Box 549 • Ithaca, New York • 14851-0549

**Luvette Brown Ed.D**  
Superintendent

Tel: (607) 274-6845  
Fax: (607) 274-2279

E-mail: [luvette.brown@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:luvette.brown@icsd.k12.ny.us)

December 19, 2018

Dear Caroline Community,

We're writing to provide you with an update on the water at Caroline Elementary School. As routine tests convey, both the lead and copper levels continue to show excellent results. 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.

Unfortunately, during the 3rd quarter (2018) testing, we did note elevated levels of chloride in the water. 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 elevated levels arose from two samples collected in August and September of 2018. The first test was on 8/14/18, which yielded a chloride concentration of 360 mg/L. This prompted the collection of a confirmation sample on 9/11/18, which yielded 240 mg/L. These were then averaged, resulting in a concentration of 300 mg/L. This surpasses the MCL of 250 mg/L as per New York State Sanitary Code.

We conducted additional tests on November 19, 2018 which resulted in a concentration of 210 mg/L and have additional tests scheduled for December 20, 2018 as well as our regularly scheduled test in January 2019. For more information about chloride, visit the EPA's site: <https://goo.gl/CgmwtU>.

To reiterate, there are no safety concerns associated with the elevated levels of chloride. We will continue to provide bottled water for drinking, as we investigate the causes of said chloride levels this summer. As usual, updates on all water testing (lead, copper, chloride) will continue to be shared on our school district website. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at (607) 274-6845.

Sincerely,

Luvette Brown Ed.D  
Superintendent

CC: Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County Health Department