

# SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**WILLIAM R. SPENCER, M.D.**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT  
15 PARK CIRCLE, SUITE 209  
CENTERPORT, NY 11721



CONTACT: **LIZ ALEXANDER**  
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE AIDE  
OFFICE: (631) 854-4500  
FAX: (631) 854-4503  
[elizabeth.alexander@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:elizabeth.alexander@suffolkcountyny.gov)

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 20, 2016



**Pictured above: Legislator Spencer addresses attendees at special forum to discuss lead in drinking water**

## ***School Officials Attend Special Forum on Lead in Drinking Water***

**Hauppauge, NY** – Recently nearly 30 Suffolk County School Districts were represented as officials attended a special forum hosted by the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA), Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), and the chairman of the Suffolk County’s Health Committee, Legislator William R. Spencer. The forum offered comprehensive guidance in addressing the hazards of lead in drinking water. The issue of lead exposure has generated great concern across the country with the Flint Michigan tragedy and locally with recent reports of elevated lead levels occurring in drinking water at a few school districts on Long Island. These reports prompted Legislator William R. Spencer to call for the forum to provide education, awareness and resources to school districts to properly address the issue and protect the health of students and faculty.

Legislator Spencer addressed the attendees on Friday, “I felt it was imperative to be proactive and coordinate this meeting considering the recent test results in some local schools showing lead contamination. Our goal is to ensure that everyone is on same page and to provide resources, understanding of roles and best practices on how to proceed in the event that test results reveal levels of lead in drinking water. We have to approach this together and in joining forces we are better prepared and equipped to protect the health of the public.”

The two hour forum brought in experts including an Environmental Toxicologist, a Laboratory Manager and a Public Health Engineer. The presentations provided comprehensive information on various topics including the differences between public water supplies and school drinking water systems, EPA, state and local guidance and regulations, testing procedures and mitigation measures.

Officials from SCWA underscored that because lead is not typically found in Suffolk County groundwater, higher levels of lead in school drinking water testing samples would likely stem from plumbing inside a building. SCWA confirmed its commitment to safe drinking water and demonstrated its rigorous testing, monitoring schedules and provision of optimum corrosion control treatment.

“This meeting was a proactive effort to protect public health,” said Suffolk County Commissioner of Health Services Dr. Tomarken. “Suffolk County health officials, Suffolk County Water Authority officials, and school superintendents are collaborating to make sure that school maintenance officials are following EPA guidelines for safe drinking water and are aware of state and county drinking water regulations.”

If school officials have questions regarding lead contamination in their school, they are encouraged to contact the Office of Public Information at the Suffolk County Department of Health Services at 631-854-0095.

###