

Barre City Elementary & Middle School
Spaulding High School

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John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools

Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child.

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November 20, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and our Staff:

This letter is a follow-up from the previous letter sent out regarding lead testing at Spaulding High School. For completeness I am including some of the content from previous communications.

The State of Vermont passed a new law in 2019 that requires all schools and child care providers to test their drinking water for lead. Under this new law, Spaulding High School was among the first schools in the state to complete testing in June 2019. Samples of water from every tap at Spaulding High School that the Vermont Department of Health determined as reasonably expected to be used for drinking or cooking was collected and sent to the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory for analysis.

While the vast majority of our taps tested below the actionable level, nine of the taps tested had a lead level AT OR ABOVE the 4 parts per billion (ppb) action level. Six of these were classroom sinks, two were in the Athletic Trainer's room, and one was in a locker room. None of these locations would normally be used for drinking water.

We take our responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for the children and staff seriously. Any tap that tested at or above 4 ppb was immediately taken out of service for drinking or cooking. All of the specific locations were remediated as defined in the new law. The five taps that were not absolutely required were taken out of service permanently. Three of the four others have had new fixtures installed, and the fourth, an ice machine in the athletic trainer's room, had a filter installed. These four locations remained with signs labeled "for handwashing only" until retesting could be completed.

On Saturday, October 5, 2019 the four taps that had new fixtures installed were retested, and the results of the retest were received from the state on November 13, 2019. All came back below the actionable level of 4 ppb. Test results and remediation taken can be viewed on the state website listed below.

As an additional precaution, we will implement a daily flush of all of our taps, as this has been recommended as a way to prevent an accumulation of lead in taps that could sit stagnant for a long period of time.

Lead exposure poses a special risk to children because they absorb lead into their systems more easily than adults do. Lead can slow down growth, impair development and learning, and can cause behavior problems. While the major source of lead poisoning in Vermont children is paint, lead in plumbing pipes and fixtures can add to a person's overall exposure. Drinking water in schools and homes may contain

lead from old pipes, plumbing fixtures (such as fountains and faucets), or the solder that joins pipe sections together.

More Information

- For questions about the water testing process, or about the law and its requirements, please dial 2-1-1.
- General information and a link to the summary of school or child care results and remediation, are online (NOTE: If your child's preschool or after school program is located at a school, the results will be listed under the school's name.):
 - Schools: healthvermont.gov/school-drinking-water
 - Child Care Programs: healthvermont.gov/childcare-drinking-water
- If you have questions or concerns about our facility and the actions we are taking, please contact Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities, at jevanbsu@buusd.org, or at (802)-476-5011, x1204.

To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention, visit healthvermont.gov/lead.

If you want to test your home drinking water for lead, contact the Health Department Laboratory to order a \$12 first draw lead test kit. Call 802-338-4736 or 800-660-9997 (toll free in Vermont).

Sincerely,
John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools