

Barre City Elementary & Middle School  
Spaulding High School



Barre Town Middle & Elementary School  
Central Vermont Career Center

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*Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child.*

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Dear Parents, Guardians and our Staff:

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. Prior to the passage of this law, Barre City Elementary & Middle School participated in a pilot project on lead testing. Samples of water from every tap at BCEMS that was determined as reasonably expected to be used for drinking or cooking was collected and sent to the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory for analysis. The results of the pilot project were compiled in a report, which can be found at the following link:

[https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ENV\\_HS\\_LeadSchoolWaterPilotReport.pdf](https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ENV_HS_LeadSchoolWaterPilotReport.pdf)

At the time of the pilot project, the action level for remediation was set at 15 parts per billion (ppb). When we received results (in 2018), all taps testing at 15ppb and above, as well as several that tested below 15ppb, were remediated per the requirements of the pilot project.

After the passage of the 2019 law, a schedule was set up for all schools in Vermont to complete testing for lead. As BCEMS has already tested, we were given a waiver from retesting all taps. We have been given direction for retesting the taps we had previously remediated to confirm what we did was effective in reducing lead, and remediating the small number of taps which tested below the previous action level of 15ppb but above the new action level of 4ppb. The vast majority of that remediation was already complete. We have completed remediation on the last few taps and expect to receive new sample bottles from the state and complete retesting in the upcoming weeks.

**Results for Barre City Elementary & School under the 2019 law:**

- **While the vast majority of our taps tested below the 4ppb action level, seven of the taps tested had a lead level AT OR ABOVE the 4ppb action level.**
  - **One of these was a hand washing sink in a classroom which was remediated by replacing the fixture, which now has a “hand washing only” sign until retest results are received;**
  - **Three of these were sinks in a classroom initially intended for use as a science lab. These sinks were never used as this classroom has always been used as a math classroom. As they are not needed, these sinks have been permanently disconnected;**
  - **One of these was an old water fountain which was immediately removed and replaced with a new filtered chiller fountain. The test results were below the previous action**

**level of 15ppb but at or above the new action level of 4ppb. Based on this, the new fountain has been taken out of service until retest results are received;**

- **Two of these are sinks in the kitchen. One has been permanently removed, and the other was remediated by replacing the fixture, and has been taken out of service until retest results are received.**

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](http://healthvermont.gov/school-drinking-water)
  - Child Care Programs: [healthvermont.gov/childcare-drinking-water](http://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.

To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention, visit [healthvermont.gov/lead](http://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