



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Dr. Keith W. Hiltz, Superintendent of Schools

February 10, 2022

UPDATE: The levels detected exceed the proposed DNR's future drinking water standard, but it's important to note there are no drinking water standards for PFAS right now. The city of Wausau wants you to know that they are not in violation of any DNR drinking water standards.

Dear Wausau School District Parents/Guardians and Staff:

As you know the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. On Wednesday, February 9, 2022, the Wausau School District was notified by the Marathon County Health Department that PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) were detected in Wausau's wells - where our drinking water comes from. PFAS are chemicals that have been used for decades in things like carpeting, food paper wrappings, and personal care products. Research has shown that long-term exposure to them may contribute to negative health impacts.

There are a few things we want you to know about this evolving situation. First, this only applies to our schools within the city of Wausau – not those in Rib Mountain, Maine, or Hewitt-Texas. It also does not affect the Wausau School Forest. Secondly, our main food production kitchens within the Wausau School District are already equipped with reverse osmosis systems that mitigate PFAS. As we work with the City of Wausau and Marathon County Health Department to learn more about what this means for the District, please know you are more than welcome to send along bottled water with your students. We have been advised the water can still be used for flushing toilets, handwashing, and cleaning.

The city of Wausau has a PFAS web page with more information. **CLICK HERE** to access it. Again, we are working with the city of Wausau and the Marathon County Health Department to learn more about the impact on the Wausau School District. As any new information comes in, we will be sure to share it with you. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's principal.

Thank you,
Wausau School District Administration

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.