



May 14, 2025

Dear Warren Hills Elementary Staff,

We wanted to follow up with the Warren Hills team to provide an update on the continued work and efforts underway with respect to the health and environmental concerns that have been raised at the school. Once again, we will continue to upload updates and information on the Warren Hills website, once they are received or completed. Please take a moment to review updates provided below and, as always, please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Cancer Cluster Inquiry

On 4/17/25, the District became aware that the Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS), along with the Missouri Cancer Registry were prepared to move forward with requesting/initiating a follow up cancer cluster inquiry at Warren Hills. The District promptly expressed its support for this effort and offered our assistance. This week, the District received confirmation that these agencies made a formal recommendation to the Missouri Cancer Inquiry Advisory Committee to proceed with the inquiry. We were notified today, (5/14/25) that the Committee will meet on 6/25/25 to formally review the diagnosis data and determine next steps. *Please see attached correspondence from the CCPHC to the District informing us of their intent to submit this request and correspondence from the CCPHC to the Missouri Cancer Inquiry Committee in support of this effort.*

In order to help accelerate this review, the District will soon be collecting updated diagnosis data (to be included along with previously collected data) that will be provided in support of this work. This information will be gathered in a sensitive manner, and our team will take proper measures to best ensure privacy. *Our Health Services team, led by incoming Director Kristin Redmond, will work directly with the building administration team in the coming days to communicate the details on when (prior to summer break) and how this information will be gathered.* In addition, detailed and updated staff census data has recently been provided to CCPHC to be shared with the State in support of this review.

As a reminder, both previous inquiries (2022 and 2024) conducted by CCPHC and MDHSS concluded that: "...there is no evidence to suggest that the breast cancer rate at Warren Hills Elementary is higher than expected, which means no further environmental investigation is warranted." Regardless of this finding, the District has initiated a series of environmental tests to help assuage concerns within the Warren Hills community.

Soil Testing

Axiom Services Professionals has completed its on-site work, collecting soil samples that will be subject to (7) specific tests: Nitrates; Heavy Metals; Volatile Organic Compounds; Organochlorine Pesticides; Herbicides; Glyphosate; and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. We anticipate a formal report from Axiom that includes the results from this analysis in June-July. Once the results are received, we will share them with the Warren Hills community and upload them on the school's website.

Air Quality Enhanced Testing - Drywall

Axiom is also conducting additional air quality testing within Warren Hills. The drywall throughout the building was tested to determine whether there were any traces of asbestos in the walls and/or whether the point of origin for the drywall was China (in light of reports of concern that the drywall might include questionable chemicals as part of the production process). As was shared in April, no traces of asbestos were found in the drywall (*this report has been posted on the website*). Further, Axiom determined that the point of origin for the drywall was not China (*this report has also been posted on the website*). Last, general environment particulate samples were recently gathered, which are in the process of being tested. Results from

this last analysis are expected this summer. Once the results are received, we will share them with the Warren Hills community and upload them on the school's website.

Water Quality Enhanced Testing

In addition to previous water quality testing, Axiom has recently gathered water samples at the school to test 13 separate areas: Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons - Gas; Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons – Diesel; RCRA 8 Metals; Nitrates/Nitrites; Pesticides; Volatile Organic Compounds; Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds; Herbicides; Total Coliforms; Turbidity; Total Dissolved Solids; pH; and Legionella. Results from this analysis are expected this summer. Once the results are received, we will share them with the Warren Hills community and upload them on the school's website.

Sewer Gas Smell

The District commissioned a test throughout the entire building at Warren Hills over spring break to check for any sewer gas leaks in the building. One minor leak was found in a custodial closet, originating from the mop sink waste pipe. This repair was completed on 4/18/25.

District Chemical Usage

The District utilizes (or contracts) various chemicals as part of our grounds, custodial and maintenance efforts at all LPS facilities. All products are applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations and specifications. The District employs a professional pest control company to manage pest control inside the buildings and all pesticides are applied according to the manufacturer's guidelines. *Reports on specific chemical usage have been prepared by the LPS Director of Facilities and Grounds and are posted on the Warren Hills website.*

Cell Tower

The District is continuing to gather information and conduct research on the cell tower located on campus, in addition to consulting with LPS legal counsel. We anticipate that an update on this work will be provided to the Warren Hills community this summer.

Well-Being Resources

As was shared last month, the District is in the process of developing a plan to best share and offer wellness and care support to the team at Warren Hills. While many of these resources are readily accessible and available to our staff, our goal is to (re)introduce these resources, and to provide more specific opportunities for care and support.

Thanks once again for your patience as we continue with this work. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Steven Anderson
Chief Operations Officer, LPS



CLAY COUNTY

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May 8, 2025

RE: Warren Hills Elementary – Update on Cancer Cluster Investigation

In response to a request received from Liberty Public Schools on April 17, 2025, CCPHC has met with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MODHSS) Chronic Disease Public Health Epidemiologists and Environmentalists, representatives from Missouri Cancer Registry, Missouri Cancer Inquiry Committee and the Liberty Public Schools District. We have requested that the Missouri Cancer Inquiry Committee at MODHSS conduct a cancer inquiry (CI) and will be partnering closely with the school district to follow through on procedures if the Missouri Cancer Inquiry Committee approves and initiates the inquiry process. It's important to note that the CI process focuses on determining if the number of cancer cases in a defined location meet a statistically abnormal level to support the need for further investigation. If a true cluster is identified, CI staff will assist in the implementation of epidemiological studies, notify agencies responsible for remediation of existing environmental hazards and educate the community regarding the risk and response of state government and other concerned agencies regarding cancer locally. This determination will take several months; CCPHC will keep the school district apprised of any developments which arise throughout.

Thank you,

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Request for Review of Warren Hills Staff Cancer Data and Environmental Information

May 8, 2025

Missouri Cancer Inquiry Committee,

We are submitting information for your review and evaluation related to concerns raised at Warren Hills Elementary School, 1251 Camille St, Liberty, MO 64068, regarding cancer diagnoses among staff. This request is an extension of the cancer cluster investigation carried out in 2022 between Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC) and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MODHSS). A historical report developed three years ago can be referenced as Appendix 1.

To date, the school has received information on a total of 7 breast cancer cases, 1 cervical, 1 brain and 1 throat cancer among their staff. There are also potentially concerns about student populations as of 2025.

One of the environmental concerns raised by school staff has been related to the on-site cell tower. The district investigated the on-site telecommunications tower in 2022–2023, receiving a SiteSafe compliance report confirming full adherence to FCC standards. Liberty Public Schools has proactively conducted multiple environmental and facility assessments to investigate other potential risk factors at the Warren Hills campus. These assessment reports are accessible at Warren Hills Elementary school website: <https://wh.lps53.org/resources>.

We are requesting that the Missouri Cancer Inquiry Committee review the submitted information to advise on appropriate next steps. If an inquiry is not initiated, we also request assistance in developing a working case definition for this school to continue monitoring the situation at the local level should any new patterns or concerns emerge.

Thank you,

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Initial Report of Cancer Cluster Inquiry – Warren Hills Elementary School

Appendix 1

Report Date: 10/14/2022

Background:

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. According to the CDC, one out of every eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime and stage of diagnosis varies greatly by geography and demographic. Although breast cancer is categorized as one disease due to its general locale, the term actually refers to several distinct diseases that affect different cells in different ways. Each of these distinct types and subtypes of breast cancer have a unique set of causal factors, some of which will be discussed below. Together the high incidence rates, complex etiologies, and extended latency periods severely limit the ability to determine causation.

Since 2013, Warren Hills Elementary School has had six female staff members develop breast cancer. Out of an abundance of caution, Liberty Public School Schools (LPS) reached out to Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC) to determine if staff reports of breast cancer were attributable to the school environment.

Discussion:

Environmental Exposures & Latency Period: Despite there being many epidemiological studies conducted to investigate environmental exposures and breast cancer risk, few of have been able to produce concrete proof. Even in the studies that have found some link between environmental exposure and breast cancer, the latency period between exposure and the initiation of disease tends to be quite long. Some studies have suggested that the chemical DDT is linked to breast cancer, but you would have to have been exposed to high levels in your adolescence and then breast cancer wouldn't usually develop for another 30-40 years. Other chemicals such as PCBs are thought to be linked to increased risk of breast cancer but usually only in women who regularly ate PCB-contaminated fish or women who worked in manufacturing and were exposed to high levels. Both DDT and PCBs have been banned in the US since the 1970s.

Concern of RF and EMF: CCPHC was also made aware that some staff members had raised concerns about Radiofrequency (RF) Radiation and Electromagnetic fields (EMF) and the roles they might play in increased risk of cancer. Both RF radiation and EMF have been studied extensively and neither have been found to have a clear link to increased risk of cancer. Common sources of RF radiation include broadcasting radio and television signals, cell phone towers, and Wi-Fi. RF waves don't have enough energy to damage DNA directly making it unlikely to be a cause of cancer. Numerous studies have been conducted comparing the relative risk of breast cancer in women with and without regular exposure to EMF. All the studies that looked at work-related exposures determined that the risk of breast cancer amongst both groups was the same.

Breast Cancer Risk Factors: Although breast cancer can occur in both men and women, it is 100 times more common in women than it is in men. There are many risk factors associated with breast cancer. Some risk factors are age related such as the older you get, the greater your risk for breast cancer is. Additionally, if you began menstruating before the age of 12 or started menopause after the age of 55,

you are at an increased risk for breast cancer. You are also at an increased risk for breast cancer if you have a family history of breast or ovarian cancer as well as if you inherited certain genetic mutations such as BRCA1 and BRCA2.

Assessment and Next Steps:

After consulting with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and reviewing the breast cancer rate at Warren Hills and comparing it to the rates in Clay County and Missouri, we determined that there is no evidence to suggest that the breast cancer rate at Warren Hills is higher than expected which means no further environmental investigation is warranted. CCPHC and LPS Administration will continue to jointly monitor the situation and will revisit if additional information arises.

If you have any further questions or need any additional assistance, feel free to reach out to CCPHC's Epidemiology Program at epi@clayhealth.com