

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

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To: Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors
From: Daniel A. Higgins, Director of Finance & Operations
Date: August 23, 2022
Re: Update on Remediation Testing and Plan for Start of School

This memorandum is intended to be an overview of the results of the remediation testing for lead in our school's water systems, steps since receiving the results, and plans for the beginning of the student and staff school year.

Following the March 29 receipt of the initial results from the newly required testing process for lead in our school drinking water, we implemented immediate measures to ensure the safety of students and staff and made the decision to engage in a voluntary remediation testing program.

The remediation testing program and interim steps included the following:

- Collecting two samples from each fixture that tested above the State's 4 ppb level for lead in water on the initial tests, a "confirmation" sample and a "flush" sample.
 - The confirmation test is a sample taken from a fixture after the water has set for at least 8 hours;
 - The flush test is a sample taken after cold water has been run through the fixture for 30 seconds;
 - Samples were taken on May 18, 2022;
- Sending the samples to A & L Laboratories who has contracted with the Department of Health and Human Services Drinking Water Program to conduct testing; and
- While waiting for the formal test results, contacted Chuck Applebee, of Water Quality Compliance Services in Wiscasset (who contracts with us as the Licensed Water System Operator for the Cape Cod Hill School) to arrange for consultation upon receipt of the results;
 - In the interim, we prepared to replace fixtures with certified lead free fixtures (knowing we ultimately may not need to, pending results of the remediation testing) necessary to provide drinking water for students and staff and water for food preparation.

Between July 21 and July 25, we began to receive results from the remediation testing. Concurrently, we analyzed the results and prepared a composite of the lab result reports to send to Mr. Applebee. We also took an additional "source water" sample from the fixture closest to the entrance of source water into the school building at both the Cascade Brook School and the WG Mallett school. The purpose of this test is to further pinpoint issues with piping between the actual water source and the facility. *It is important to note that confidence is very high that our issue does not lie with the source water as it is very rare to have high lead levels in New England and*

because testing of the source water in our district has not resulted in findings of elevated lead levels.

Included in your packet are copies of the Confirmation and Flush testing results and a composite that also includes recommended next steps developed while working with Mr. Applebee.

Following is the plan for water usage for the beginning of the school year and next steps by school sites. This plan was developed through consultation with Mr. Applebee.

Academy Hill School

- Bottled water will be provided to students and staff until fixtures are replaced and further testing completed
- Resumption of regular use of source water for food preparation
- Three (3) fixtures to be replaced, tagged out and re-tested

GD Cushing School

- Resumption of regular use of designated water fountains for consumption for students and staff
- Resumption of regular use of source water for food preparation
- One (1) fixture to be replaced, tagged out and re-tested

Cape Cod Hill School

- Resumption of regular use of designated water fountains for consumption for students and staff
- Resumption of regular use of source water for food preparation
- Seven (7) fixtures to be replaced, tagged out and re-tested
 - We are installing a new water bottle filling station and removing several drinking water fountains from classroom sinks as a means of reducing expenditures and future testing.

Cascade Brook School

- Resumption of regular use of designated water fountains for consumption for students and staff
- Resumption of regular use of source water for food preparation
- Twelve (12) fixtures to be replaced, tagged out and re-tested
 - We are installing a new water bottle filling station and removing several drinking water fountains from classroom sinks as a means of reducing expenditures and future testing.
- Additional Source Water test results were 2.8 ppb. (below the State of Maine standard.) We anticipate no further action is warranted as the level is below the standard.
 - As of noontime August 23, 2022, I am waiting to hear back from our consultant to confirm.

WG Mallett School

- Bottled water will be provided to students and staff until textures are replaced and further testing completed
- Bottled water will be provided for food preparation
- Eight (8) fixtures to be replaced, tagged out and re-tested

- Additional Source Water test results were 45.9 ppb (above both the State of Maine standard of 4 ppb and Federal standard of 15 ppb. This result appears to be an anomaly as our source water has consistently tested below the 4 ppb level.
 - As of noontime August 23, 2022, I am waiting to hear back from our consultant to formalize next steps.

Mt. Blue Middle School

- Resumption of regular use of designated water fountains for consumption for students and staff
- Resumption of regular use of source water for food preparation
- One (1) fixture to be replaced, tagged out and re-tested

Mt. Blue Campus

- Resumption of regular use of designated water fountains for consumption for students and staff
- Resumption of regular use of source water for food preparation
- One (1) fixture to be replaced, tagged out and re-tested

Additional Notes

- Schools will maintain signage clearly indicating fixtures that are not to be used for consumption.
- Maintenance Supervisor Mike Turner has ordered the necessary additional fixtures and anticipates having them all on hand by Wednesday afternoon. He and his staff have already begun replacing fixtures designed for consumption and food preparation.
- Director of Transportation and Custodial Services Richard Joseph has arranged to have bottled water available at the sites where it is necessary.
- When all fixtures have been replaced, we will conduct additional testing with the goal of a test result of less than 4 ppb for lead on a “confirmation sample” testing protocol.

While we recognize that provision of bottled water and ongoing maintenance work to replace fixtures and re-test represents an inconvenience to many and additional work on the part of our maintenance and custodial staff, we also are of the position that the health and safety of our students, staff, and school visitors is of the most important responsibilities we have.