10/20/21

PUBLIC NOTICE: School Lead Water Sample Results *(LD206-HP141)*

Dear Veazie Community School Families,

Maine law requires schools to test all drinking water faucets that could be used for drinking or cooking purposes for the presence of lead. This law further requires that parents and staff are made aware of all sample results.

On Monday, October 7, 2021, water samples were collected from 44 water fixtures at Veazie Community School. In addition to the required drinking and cooking fixtures, I also collected water samples from hand washing and science laboratory fixtures. Any sites producing elevated levels of lead (exceeding 4 parts per billion, or ppb), are considered fixtures of concern. Sites producing levels of lead in excess of 15 ppb are considered very concerning. Results were received on the afternoon of 10/18/21.

6 of our non-drinking or cooking faucets produced elevated levels of lead. Those sites were two handwashing sinks in the kitchen (5.1ppb & 4.8ppb), two of our science lab sinks (5.3ppb & 4.4ppb), a spare classroom handwash sink (4.3ppb), and a middle school classroom handwash sink (4.1ppb).

All of our water bottle filling stations produced undetectable amounts of lead. 11 classroom drinking faucets produced undetectable amounts of lead. 4 of our classroom drinking faucets produced detectable amounts of lead that were below the 4ppb threshold outlined in state law. In summation, all of our drinking and cooking fixtures produced undetectable levels of lead, or levels of lead below the 4ppb threshold outlined in state law. *(LD206-HP141)*

This email, along with access to lead sampling results, certification of sampling, official public notice, as well as information about lead in drinking water are being distributed to all students, parents and staff to remain in compliance with Maine State Rule *(LD206-HP141).* All of this information can also be found on our school website: www.veaziecs.org.

State law does not require mitigation of these findings, only communication. Regardless, I have immediately begun working with a Drinking Water Operator at Hayley Ward (Formerly CES, Inc.). Our immediate steps were to label each of the 6 non-drinking/cooking fixtures with the following sign:

I have also ordered kits to conduct confirmation testing of these locations, as well as 30-second flush samples (which help to determine if the problem is fixtures or water lines). I wish to note that due to COVID-19 safety measures, all of our classroom sinks have been either shut down completely for the past 20 months, or are only used for hand washing. It is known that stagnant water within fixtures can detect lead and other contaminants that slowly leach out over time. For this reason, we will also implement other routine control measures including regularly flushing fixtures to bring a fresh supply of water, and clean fixture aerators. If needed, a supply line sample will be taken to determine if the problem is with the supply line or water pump (however, we would expect detectable traces considered to be of concern to be found in all of our water faucets if the problem was related to the supply line). In the end, we will work with plumbers to replace any and all piping and/or fixtures (if it comes to that).

I will provide updates throughout this mitigation process. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Matthew D. Cyr
Superintendent & Principal