

Dr. Kevin Dirth  
Superintendent

Martha Gagner  
Business Manager

Joanne Wells  
Special Ed Director

Michelle Spence  
Assistant Special Ed Director



Kathy Finck  
Human Resource Director

Mona Berry  
Curriculum Director

Dr. Melanie Boyle  
Early Childhood Programs

May 31, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and our Staff:

As part of a new law, all schools and childcare providers are required to test for lead in drinking water and fix any issues when lead is found above an established action level. The intent of the law is to protect children, students, and staff from lead in these settings.

The health and safety of the children in our care and of our employees is our priority, and we are working quickly to check our system for lead.

The Secretary of Education, Dan French, has asked Maple Run if they would be in the early round of testing because we have some experience. Saint Albans City School helped pilot some early testing last year. His goal is that we can assist other school districts with any insights in ways to improve and streamline the process.

The drinking water at Fairfield Center School will begin the testing process on June 1. We will collect water samples from all taps that are used for drinking and cooking and send the samples to the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory for analysis.

### **Why is lead a concern?**

Lead poisoning can slow down a child's growth, development, and learning and can cause behavioral problems. Children absorb lead more easily than adults, so they are at a higher risk for lead poisoning.

### **How does lead get into drinking water?**

Lead rarely occurs naturally in water supplies. However, lead can get into drinking water through contact with lead pipes, plumbing fixtures and solder.

### **How will I be notified of the results?**

You will be sent a summary of the results within 10 days after we receive the test results from the laboratory.

### **What will happen if there is lead in the drinking water at the facility?**

Any tap that tests at or above the action level will be taken out of use for consumption. Once we fix the issue, and follow-up testing shows the lead level is at or below the action level, the tap can be used again.

We want lead levels in drinking water to be as low as possible. We will find the most effective means of fixing the problem. There are many easy and low-cost fixes to reduce lead in drinking water, including removing seldom-used fixtures or encouraging the use of filtered and properly maintained bottle fill stations.

**How do children come in contact with lead?**

Exposure to lead is a public health concern in Vermont. Potential sources include dust from deteriorated lead-based paint and products, including toys, keys, jewelry, pottery, dishes, imported candy and foods, and antique, vintage or salvaged goods. Lead can also be found in contaminated soil and old plumbing pipes and fixtures. While a major source of lead poisoning in Vermont children is paint, the lead in plumbing pipes and fixtures can add to a person's overall lead exposure.

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

**Can I test the water in my home for lead?**

Yes. To test your home for lead in drinking water, 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).

**Where can I get more information?**

If you have any questions or for more information, please dial 2-1-1.

To contact someone at Fairfield Center School about the testing:

- Call Sean O'Dell, Principal at 802-827-6639
- Visit: <http://www.maplerun.org/o/fcs>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Dirth".

Kevin Dirth,  
Superintendent of Schools