

10/20/22

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

Dear RSU #34 Staff, Students, and Families

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

Earlier this summer, I shared results and mitigation strategies from test samples taken at Alton Elementary School, Viola Rand Elementary School, and J.A.Leonard Middle School. We recently received results from Old Town Elementary School where 60 different locations were tested.

Sampling results showed that 4 of the 60 locations produced elevated levels (above 4 parts per billion) where mitigation is recommended, but not required. One of the locations was a classroom handwash sink, and the other three were in the kitchen. OTEs did not produce any sampling results showing elevated levels beyond 15 parts per billion where mitigation is highly recommended.

State law does not require mitigation or remediation, only communication. Regardless, RSU #34 has already begun working with Drinking Water Operators at Hayley Ward (formerly CES, Inc.). Our immediate steps are to clearly label each of the fixtures showing elevated levels of lead (above 4ppb).

Kitchen fixtures showing elevated levels will not be used for cooking or food preparation until further testing can be completed. We have ordered test kits to conduct confirmation testing of these locations, as well as 30-second flush samples (which help to determine if the problem is within the fixtures, or water lines). We will also implement control measures including regularly flushing fixtures to bring a fresh supply of water, and routinely cleaning fixture aerators. If needed, a supply line sample will be taken (however we would expect concerning levels of lead in all of our water sources if the problem was related to the supply line). If necessary, fixtures may be replaced. I expect Old Town High School sampling results to be collected and processed over the next month. Those results will be shared in a similar public notice.

Below are links to water sample results we have received from Old Town Elementary School:

[OTES Sampling Results](#)

[OTES Public Notice and Certification of School Lead Sampling](#)

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Matthew D. Cyr
Superintendent, RSU #34