

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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CHESTERVILLE – FARMINGTON – INDUSTRY – NEW SHARON – NEW VINEYARD – STARKS – TEMPLE – VIENNA – WELD – WILTON

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TO: Parents and Staff of RSU 9
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent
RE: School Cancelled for Friday, May 6th
DATE: 5-5-2022

School will be cancelled tomorrow, Friday, May 6th, in all RSU 9 Schools.

Late this afternoon we received the results of the water testing we had completed at the end of March. These tests were done to follow the new Maine law (LD 153, *An Act to Strengthen Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water*) which went into effect this school year. The law expects that “all fixtures in our schools that are used for drinking or preparing food will be tested”. These tests needed to be completed by May 31st of this year.

While there is no safe level of lead in drinking water, lead levels over 4 ppb (parts per billion) now exceed Maine’s new guidelines and are recommended for mitigation or remediation. Lead levels over 15 ppb are considered elevated and may require even more aggressive repairs.

Upon review of the results of the 117 fixtures tested in RSU 9 schools, 63 were below 4 ppb, 38 fixtures were between 4 ppb and 15 ppb, and 16 were above 15 ppb. The 54 fixtures that did not meet the new state standard were spread out amongst all eight of our schools. Over the last few hours, we tried to come up with a plan to try and still have school safely tomorrow, but unfortunately because of a number of factors we were not able to make this happen.

Please accept my apologies for this late notice, but it could not be helped.

Tomorrow, we will be putting together plans to safely open our schools this coming Monday. We will also be putting together more information to share with you about our results along with all of our next steps.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

“Preach, my dear sir, a crusade against ignorance.” Thomas Jefferson