

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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TO: RSU 9 Parents, Guardians, & Staff
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent
RE: 12-12-2022 School Water Supply Update
DATE: 12-11-2022

You may recall that last May, when we received results showing that water from 54 of our fountains or faucets tested above the new Maine State Standard of 4 parts per billion (ppb), we immediately put a plan in place to stop students and staff from drinking water from any of those fountains/faucets. We then retested water from all 54 along with several others to determine if replacing the fixtures was the likely solution or if there were other areas of concern that needed to be investigated. The second set of test results showed the number of fountains/faucets needing to be replaced had been reduced to about 30. However, based on our water consultant's advice, we decided to replace more fixtures and pieces of equipment.

At this point, I want to re-emphasize that the Maine Drinking Water Program along with the Maine and US Depts of Environmental Protection have assured us that washing hands in water with lead levels above the "new" state standard would not be harmful to personal health.

The work on replacing the equipment, with the exception for two water fountain/filling stations, was completed before Thanksgiving. The remaining work will be completed in December. The details are as follows:

Academy Hill School	3 water source fixtures
Cape Cod Hill School	12 water source fixtures; 1 bottle fill station remaining
Cascade Brook School	23 water source fixtures; 1 bottle fill station remaining
Cushing School	1 water source fixture
Mallet School	8 water source fixtures (plus 4 back flow preventers)
Mt. Blue Campus	1 water source fixture
Mt. Blue Middle School	1 water source fixture

Total water source fixtures replaced: 49

We now must retest each piece of new equipment to ensure that we have, indeed, fixed the problem. Currently, the required sampling bottles are not easily available anywhere in the country, so we are one of many districts on a waiting list for these containers. Until we can retest and receive acceptable results, we cannot use those fixtures replaced. We will continue, where necessary, to supply water to RSU 9 students and staff.

We are hopeful that our efforts to-date have fixed our lead problems. If they have not, we will continue to work to find the cause. As soon as more information becomes available it will be shared with you. Thanks for your patience!

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