



BANGOR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

73 Harlow Street – Bangor, Maine 04401

www.bangorschools.net

James Tager
Superintendent of Schools

207-992-4152
Fax: 207-992-4163

Jerry Hayman
Director of Business Services

207-992-4158
Fax: 207-992-4163

February 8, 2022

With the passage of LD 153 (An Act to Strengthen Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water), the Maine Legislature has mandated that all schools in Maine assess the water in all school buildings on a regular basis. The first round of water samples were collected from all Bangor school buildings in late December and analyzed to determine whether those buildings had high levels of lead under the guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Bangor School Department hired Haley Ward Consulting firm to test the water in schools, and upon receipt of the results in January, 2022 were informed that timing errors had been made during the testing procedures at our schools which resulted in multiple tests indicating amounts of lead that are higher than guidelines established by the EPA. As a result, the Bangor School Department (BSD) took multiple steps to ensure the safety of students, staff, and teachers in the district by taking affected water sources out of service, immediately retesting the water sources, as well as taking immediate action to provide safe drinking water to students in our schools.

The latest round of testing has provided us with an accurate list of water sources that require remediation. We will be taking a two fold approach to remediate the levels of lead found in the water of our schools which includes using BSD employees as well as outside contractors to allow us to complete this project in the quickest amount of time possible. Once these projects have been completed, additional water samples from these locations will be retested to confirm that the fixes put in place are successful before reopening them for service. The water test results of each building will be shared with our school community upon completion of remediation in that area. We will continue to enforce the safety protocols previously put in place and continue to provide bottled drinking water to students in our affected schools.

The BSD will continue yearly assessments of water quality and will notify families of the assessments. The Maine Drinking Water Program has three levels in which they designate results. The levels are provided below.

Passes - Test results below 4 parts per billion.

Recommends remediation - Test results between 4 and 15 parts per billion.

Requires remediation - Test results at lead levels above 15 parts per billion.

Families can learn more about the national standards for water safety at schools on the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo>. Results from the most recent testing can be found on the BSD website: <https://www.bangorschools.net/for-parents/an-act-to-strengthen-testing-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water/>



BANGOR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

73 Harlow Street – Bangor, Maine 04401

www.bangorschools.net

James Tager
Superintendent of Schools

207-992-4152
Fax: 207-992-4163

Jerry Hayman
Director of Business Services

207-992-4158
Fax: 207-992-4163

It is important for you to know that the water supplied from the Bangor Water District (BWD) does not exceed the EPA guidelines for lead. Lead may enter drinking water from contact with interior plumbing containing lead. I have attached a letter from the General Manager of the BWD which provides an explanation of sources of lead in pipes and what individual homeowners and business owners can do. If you have any specific questions regarding lead in the pipes or how to test for lead, please contact the BWD at 207-947-4516 x220.

The safety of our students is paramount. If you have additional questions you may call the State of Maine Division of Environmental and Community Health at (207)287-2070 or the Superintendent's Office at (207)992-4150.

Thank you for your continued support.

James Tager
Superintendent
Bangor School Department