



BANGOR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

73 Harlow Street – Bangor, Maine 04401

www.bangorschools.net

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January 18, 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. Water samples were collected from all Bangor school buildings and analyzed to determine whether those buildings had high levels of lead or copper 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 were informed that timing errors had been made during the testing procedures at our schools which resulted in multiple tests indicating trace amounts of lead that are higher than guidelines established by the EPA. As a result, the Bangor School Department (BSD) is working with the firm to retest the water sources as well as immediate action to provide safe drinking water to students in our schools. We will also be working closely with Bangor Water District (BWD) to immediately address any issues found.

Affected water sources have been taken out of service until further testing can be done. We are scheduled for our second round of water testing this coming Saturday, January 22. It is important for you to know that the water source from the Bangor Water District does not exceed the EPA guidelines for lead. Although a timing error was detected, lead contamination could also be from older pipes that provide water to these locations. Once we have determined the underlying cause, we will work as quickly as possible to correct the issue, which may include installing filters or replacing equipment. 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 results of these upcoming water tests will also be shared with our school community.

In the future, the BSD will continue yearly assessments of water quality and will notify families of the schools' water assessments if they exceed the EPA standards. If you would like to see the results for your school you may access them in your principal's office. You can learn more about the national standards for water safety at schools on the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo>

Additionally, 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.



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The safety of your students is paramount to us. If you have additional questions, please call the State of Maine Division of Environmental and Community Health at (207)287-2070.

I wanted you to be aware of these results and how they impact our schools. We anticipate getting new results in early February and will update you at that time.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Tager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Tager
Superintendent
Bangor School Department