

Regional School Unit #26

Asa C. Adams School - Orono Middle School - Orono High School

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May 3, 2022

RSU 26 School Community,

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 drinking water in school buildings on a regular basis. The first round of water samples were collected from RSU 26 schools in late March and analyzed to determine whether the buildings had high levels of lead under the guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP).

Maine's DWP has three levels in which they designate results, as follows:

- 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

Test results detected some water fixtures with lead above 4 parts per billion across all three RSU 26 schools and a few results detecting lead above 15 parts per billion at two schools (Asa and OHS). Important to note - none of the affected areas are in our kitchens. Attached to this email you will find the public notice sharing these findings for your child's school. We have taken the following initial steps upon receiving these results this week:

1. Affected fixtures have been taken out of service. Alternate water fountains may be used in the interim.
2. Follow up testing is being conducted to verify results.
3. District staff is working with a contractor specializing in water quality to determine mitigation/remediation recommendations for affected fixtures.

Detailed results & public notices from testing can be found on our new RSU 26 Water Testing webpage:

<https://www.rsu26.org/watertesting/>. We will continue to provide updated test data and mitigation/remediation plans to the school community as these are available. Affected fixtures will be retested to confirm that the fixes put in place are successful before reopening them for service

The safety of our students & staff is paramount, and we are acting on these results immediately to determine the best way to address the affected areas. More information about the Maine DWP can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/testingLeadSchoolWater.shtml>. If you have additional questions, you may call the State of Maine Drinking Water Program at (207)287-2070 or the Superintendent's Office at (207)866-7110.

Take care,
Meredith Higgins
RSU 26 Superintendent

Cultivating a community of responsible, respectful, and passionate learners.