

**Barre City Elementary & Middle School
Spaulding High School**

Lisa Perreault, SFO
Business Manager

Jessica Barewicz
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and
Assessment

Donald E. McMahon, M.Ed.
Stacy Anderson, M.Ed.
Co-Directors of Special Services

Annette Rhoades
Assistant Director of Special Services



120 Ayers Street, Barre, VT 05641
Phone: 802-476-5011
Fax: 802-476-4944 or 802-477-1132
www.buusd.org

John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools

Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child.

**Barre Town Middle & Elementary School
Central Vermont Career Center**

Carol Marold
Director of Human Resources

Emmanuel Ajanma
Director of Technology

Lauren May
Director of Early Education

Jamie Evans
Director of Facilities

Josh Allen
Communications Specialist

November 20, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and our Staff:

This letter is a follow-up from previous letters sent out regarding lead testing at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School. For completeness I am including some of the content from previous communications.

The State of Vermont passed a new law in 2019 that requires all schools and child care providers to test their drinking water for lead. Under this new law, Barre Town Middle and Elementary School was among the first schools in the state to complete testing in June 2019. Samples of water from every tap at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School that the Vermont Department of Health determined as reasonably expected to be used for drinking or cooking was collected and sent to the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory for analysis.

While the majority of the samples tested below the actionable level, forty-one of the samples tested had a lead level AT OR ABOVE the 4 parts per billion (ppb) action level. Thirty-eight of these were on the initial first draw, and three were after a flush following the initial first draw. Twenty-two of the sample locations with a lead level AT OR ABOVE the 4 parts per billion (ppb) action level were at classroom sinks, thirteen were at water fountains without chillers (our older water fountains), one was in a storage room sink, one was in a library sink, and one was in a hallway sink. None of our newly installed chilled water filler stations throughout the building tested above the action level.

We take our responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for the children and staff seriously. Any tap that tested at or above 4 ppb was immediately taken out of service for drinking or cooking. All of the specific locations were remediated as defined in the new law. Taps that were not absolutely required were taken out of service permanently. Others have had new fixtures installed, and have remained with signs labeled "for handwashing only" until retesting could be completed.

On Saturday, October 5, 2019 the 24 taps that had new fixtures installed were retested, and the results of the retest were received from the state on November 13, 2019. 18 of the 24 taps retested came back below the actionable level, and the remaining 6 taps still tested high. We believe that these 6 taps may not have been properly flushed prior to retesting, so we will flush and retest 5 of these. The 6th tap is on a sink that we have determined can be removed, as it is in a room with multiple sinks and is not necessary. We will retest the remaining 5 taps as soon as we receive sample bottles from the state and complete the state-recommended flushing protocol. In the meantime the 5 taps to be retested will continue to have "for handwashing only" signs and will not be used for drinking. As soon as we receive the next round of test results we will send out another communication. Test results and remediation taken can be viewed on the state website listed below.

As an additional precaution, we will implement a daily flush of all of our taps, as this has been recommended as a way to prevent an accumulation of lead in taps that could sit stagnant for a long period of time.

Lead exposure poses a special risk to children because they absorb lead into their systems more easily than adults do. Lead can slow down growth, impair development and learning, and can cause behavior problems. While the major source of lead poisoning in Vermont children is paint, lead in plumbing pipes and fixtures can add to a person's overall exposure. Drinking water in schools and homes may contain lead from old pipes, plumbing fixtures (such as fountains and faucets), or the solder that joins pipe sections together.

More Information

- For questions about the water testing process, or about the law and its requirements, please dial 2-1-1.
- General information and a link to the summary of school or child care results and remediation, are online (NOTE: If your child's preschool or after school program is located at a school, the results will be listed under the school's name.):
 - Schools: healthvermont.gov/school-drinking-water
 - Child Care Programs: healthvermont.gov/childcare-drinking-water
- If you have questions or concerns about our facility and the actions we are taking, please contact Jamie Evans, Director of Facilities, at jevanbsu@buusd.org, or at (802)-476-5011, x1204.

To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention, visit healthvermont.gov/lead.

If you want to test your home drinking water for lead, contact the Health Department Laboratory to order a \$12 first draw lead test kit. Call 802-338-4736 or 800-660-9997 (toll free in Vermont).

Sincerely,
John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools