



RSUD



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Rochester Stockbridge Unified District
Established 2018

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Two communities working together to support students.

January 27, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

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. Samples of water from every tap at Rochester School that is reasonably expected to be used for drinking or cooking were collected and sent to the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory for analysis.

Results for Rochester:

The drinking fountain in the preschool classroom tested at the 4 parts per billion (ppb) action level. This fountain was immediately shut off yesterday morning and an alternative source of drinking water is being provided to preschoolers. The hand washing sink in the music room bathroom also tested above the 4 ppb. This sink is not used for drinking, and a sign indicating the water should not be drunk has been posted. Three other taps in unused parts of the high school also tested above the 4ppb level. Though these areas of the high school are not used, signs indicating they should not be used for drinking have been posted on these water sources. All other taps tested below the 4ppb 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. We are working on fixes to permanently lower levels of lead in the water.

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.
- You can view school and child care results, remediation and any follow-up testing at leadresults.vermont.gov. (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.) For more information visit:
 - 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 me.

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,

Bonnie Bourne, Principal