

**Barre City Elementary & Middle School**

**Spaulding High School**

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**John Pandolfo**

Superintendent of Schools

*Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child.*

**Barre Town Middle & Elementary School**

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July 1, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and our 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. Under this new law, Spaulding High School was the first school in the state to complete testing. Samples of water from every tap at Spaulding High 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.

#### **Results for Spaulding High School:**

- **While the vast majority of our taps tested below the actionable level, nine of the taps tested had a lead level AT OR ABOVE the 4 parts per billion (ppb) action level. Six of these were classroom sinks, two were in the Athletic Trainer's room, and one was in a locker room. None of these locations would normally be used for drinking water.**

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 these specific locations will be remediated as defined in the new law. In addition, we plan to sample and test additional locations beyond those that the Vermont Department of Health determined as reasonably expected to be used for drinking or cooking.

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](http://healthvermont.gov/school-drinking-water)

○ Child Care Programs: [healthvermont.gov/childcare-drinking-water](http://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.

To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention, visit [healthvermont.gov/lead](http://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