

April 8, 2021

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

June - November of 2019. Scheduling and Testing began. On June 11, 2019, the following link to all Principals (<https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/school/lead-testing-drinking-water-what-schools-need-do>) The SU provided guidance, sample letters and reminders and made sure we had completed the tap survey so testing could begin. In Thetford, we coordinated this effort with Principal Chance Lindsley, John Brown of Thetford Academy and Patricia Beavers of P2 Environmental Services to be sure that all testing was completed and sent to the State of Vermont.

Results for Thetford Elementary School:

- **One or more of the taps had a lead level AT OR ABOVE the 4 parts per billion (ppb) action level.**
- **These Five Faucets were shut off or labelled not for human consumption at the time when results were received in December 2020 and were replaced.**
- **Follow up samples were collected on February 23, 2021 and**
- **Initially FIVE (5) samples of Thetford Elementary Water Faucets that had direct human consumption tested over the limit. After the resample in February THREE (3) faucets above the action level remain.**
- **The Three (3) fountains in the classrooms Room 223, Room 225 and 226 are now permanently shut down. Plans are to install another combo unit in the 200 -wing hallway over the summer then cut and cap the remaining classroom fountains.**

John Brown and Patricia Beavers have been in regular touch through this entire process. During this time period, COVID19 stalled the actions with the State for resampling and communicating results. In June of 2020 we received notice that mitigation and communication of results could be postponed until the fall of 2020. We had already undertaken all recommended mitigation efforts. Unfortunately, the proper communication did not happen as it should have and for that we apologize. New lead free certified fixtures were installed, but retesting again showed that the piping to those chillers may harbor extremely low levels of lead, even when flushed (run for clearing and cooling), at less than four parts per billion. Thus, they will not be put into service going forward.

The standard for what is considered an acceptable level of lead in drinking water has changed through the years. When the law was passed in 2019, the standard was <4 parts per billion. Now the State of Vermont, and all of us in the schools, are committed to no lead in drinking 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
- If you have questions or concerns about our facility and the actions we are taking, please contact Principal Chance Lindsley at 802 785 2426 or Assistant Superintendent Bruce Williams at 802 222 7090

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,

Summary of Initial Lead in Drinking Water Results for THETFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tap	First Draw	Flu- s h	Date Sampled	Date Analyzed	Action Taken	Date Action Taken
Room 223 Classroom Drinking Fountain w/	11 ppb*	2 ppb	Nov 19, 2020	Dec 02, 2020		Jan 20, 2021
Room 226 Classroom Drinking Fountain w/	9 ppb*	4 ppb*	Nov 19, 2020	Dec 02, 2020		Jan 20, 2021
Room 225 Classroom Drinking Fountain w/	8 ppb*	2 ppb	Nov 19, 2020	Dec 02, 2020		Jan 20, 2021
Room 122 Counselor Sink	5 ppb*	<1 ppb	Nov 19, 2020	Dec 02, 2020		Jan 20, 2021
Room 104 Classroom Sink	4 ppb*	<1 ppb	Nov 19, 2020	Dec 02, 2020		Jan 20, 2021

Summary of Lead in Drinking Water Results and Remediation Actions for Thetford Elementary School, Thetford

Tap	First Draw	Flush	Date Sampled
Room 225 Classroom Drinking Fountain w/	11 ppb*	1 ppb	Feb 23, 2021
Room 223 Classroom Drinking Fountain w/	10 ppb*	1 ppb	Feb 23, 2021
Room 226 Classroom Drinking Fountain w/	10 ppb*	2 ppb	Feb 23, 2021

Notes:

- ¹ The Certificate of Analysis for each sample that is included in this summary will be mailed to you.
- ² The action level for lead in school and child care drinking water set by the Vermont legislature is 4 parts per billion (ppb).
- ³ A first draw sample collects the first water to come out of the tap after a period of inactivity, typically 8 to 18 hours. A high first draw result may indicate that faucets and fixtures are the likely source of lead.
- ⁴ A flush sample is taken after running cold water for 30 seconds, which tests water further upstream in the plumbing. A high flush result may indicate that plumbing is the likely source of lead.

