

April 3, 2025

Subject: Lead Safety Progress Update for Fernwood Montessori School

Dear Fernwood Families and Staff,

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) continue working to remediate lead hazards at Fernwood Montessori School. The school will remain closed while remediations and safety evaluations are ongoing. We appreciate your continued patience as we work to complete these important efforts.

Next Steps and What Families Should Know

Fernwood students should continue attending Andrew S. Douglas Middle School (3620 N. 18th St.) until further notice. The painting crews are currently applying a coat of paint to all of the walls in the affected areas as part of the stabilization process.

April 10 virtual town hall

Milwaukee Public Schools will host a virtual town hall on Wednesday, April 10, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for families and staff from the following schools:

- Golda Meir School Lower Campus
- Kagel School
- Fernwood Montessori School
- Robert M. LaFollette School
- Maryland Avenue Montessori School
- Starms Early Childhood Center
- Trowbridge School of Great Lakes Studies

The town hall will include participation from MPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, Ed.D, MHD Commissioner of Health Michael Totoraitis, PhD, MHD Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Health Tyler Weber, and Dr. Heather Paradis of Children's Wisconsin. Together, they will hear from families and help answer questions related to lead concerns at MPS schools.

Speakers will have 90 seconds each to ask questions during the event. To maximize participation, families and staff are encouraged to coordinate and select a spokesperson to ask shared questions and/or concerns on behalf of their group. Written questions and comments will also be accepted during the meeting.

- Register for Zoom meeting: mpsmke.com/leadtownhall
- Sign up to speak at: mpsmke.com/leadtownhallspeaker

What Families Can Continue Doing at Home to Reduce Lead Exposure

- Clean surfaces with wet wipes to remove lead dust.
- Remove shoes at the door to prevent tracking in lead dust.
- Wash hands and toys frequently, especially for young children.



- Provide foods rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C to help prevent lead absorption.
- Run tap water cold for three minutes before use and use a certified water filter (NSF/ANSI 53).

Health and Safety Resources

Families are encouraged to have MPS students and children under age 6 tested for lead exposure through their primary care provider. The only way to know if a child has been exposed to lead is through screening. Families can schedule a test with their provider or visit a free lead screening clinic.

For updates, clinic locations, and public health resources, visit www.milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead or mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport. Additional resources are available at www.milwaukee.gov/HEH.

Both MPS and MHD remain committed to ensuring the health and safety of Fernwood students and staff. We appreciate your patience and will provide further updates next week.

Sincerely,

Home Environmental Health
City of Milwaukee Health Department

Office of School Administration
Milwaukee Public Schools