

March 13, 2025

Subject: Temporary Closure of LaFollette School Due to Lead Hazard Remediation

Dear LaFollette Families and Staff,

Out of an abundance of caution, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has decided to **temporarily close LaFollette School effective Monday, March 17**. The decision was made after a recent inspection by MPS and the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) found what appear to be significant lead hazards. While the school is closed, it will undergo remediation to ensure the safety of students and staff.

No lead poisoned children have been identified at the school. The temporary closure will allow us to proactively ensure that MPS facilities teams have the space to safely address any lead hazards present at the school.

We recognize that this decision impacts families and staff, and we appreciate your understanding as we work together to ensure a safe environment for students.

Next Steps & What Families Should Know

- The school will remain closed until MHD confirms that all remediation and cleaning efforts meet lead safety standards.
- LaFollette students and staff temporarily will relocate to Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (1017 N. 12th St.). Classroom materials and other items should be left at LaFollette.
- School hours will remain the same (9:10 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.).
- If your student is already assigned a bus, your student will be taken to WCLL. If you need transportation for your child, please call (414) 475-8922.
- Any student medications should be picked up from LaFollette on Friday, March 14.
- MHD will continue to monitor progress and conduct follow-up inspections to determine when the building can safely reopen.
- Families can find updates, information on upcoming screening clinics, and public health resources on MHD's website at www.milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead and mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport.

What Families Can Do at Home to Reduce Lead Exposure

- Use wet wipes to clean surfaces like floors, windows, and furniture to remove lead dust.
- Remove shoes at the door to prevent tracking in dirt with lead dust.
- Wash hands and toys frequently, especially for very young children.
- Provide foods rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C to help prevent lead absorption.
- Run tap water cold for three minutes before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Use a water filter certified to remove lead (NSF/ANSI 53).

Health & Safety Resources

- **Lead Screening for Students:** MHD, in partnership with MPS, Children's Wisconsin, and Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, will hold a free lead-screening clinic for students of impacted schools, including LaFollette. The clinic will take place on Saturday, March 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bradley Tech (700 S. 4th St.).
- **Lead Testing for Young Children:** Families are encouraged to have affected MPS students and children under age 6 tested for lead exposure through their primary care provider.

We will provide further updates as soon as more information is available. Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work to ensure a safe school environment.

Sincerely,

Home Environmental Health
City of Milwaukee Health Department

Office of School Administration
Milwaukee Public Schools