

March 27, 2025

**Subject:** MPS Lead Safety Update – Inspection Reports and DHS Order

Dear Milwaukee Public Schools Families and Staff,

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) continue our shared commitment to protecting student and staff health through proactive inspections, remediation, and communication about lead hazards in school buildings.

### **New School Inspection Reports Available**

MHD has published interim clearance inspection reports for four previously affected schools: Golda Meir Lower Campus, Maryland Avenue Montessori, Kagel Elementary, and Trowbridge School. Each report includes detailed results of dust wipe testing and photos of the affected areas inside each school. These reports are publicly available at [milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead](https://milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead).

### **Lead Action Plan Submission & Review**

On February 5, MHD formally requested that MPS submit a districtwide Lead Action Plan by March 21, 2025. MPS submitted a draft plan by that deadline, outlining its proposed approach to inspecting, cleaning, and remediating schools across the district.

This week, MHD completed an initial review and sent back requested revisions. Our goal is to collaborate on a finalized plan that is comprehensive, sustainable, and protective of the health and safety of students and staff. Once the plan is finalized, it will be made publicly available.

### **State Health Department Issues Compliance Order**

Last week, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) issued a formal noncompliance order to MPS after observing unsafe renovation practices at several schools that occurred weeks earlier. These included issues with containment, signage, cleaning, and recordkeeping. The full order is available here: [DHS Noncompliance Order](#).

In response, MPS has committed to implementing new internal accountability measures and intends to align its procedures with state and federal lead-safe work practices. MPS also confirmed it will continue consulting with MHD throughout the process to ensure schools are safe for students and staff.

### **Progress at Temporarily Closed Schools**

The following three schools remain closed while work continues:

- **Fernwood Montessori School:** Wall repairs and stabilization are nearly complete. Once painting is complete, the entire building will undergo deep cleaning. MHD will reinspect the building before any reopening decision is made.
- **Starms Early Childhood Center:** Work is underway, with staff preparing the building and painting now occurring in areas not requiring major preparation. More extensive stabilization work, regulated under DHS 163, is scheduled to begin later this week.
- **LaFollette School:** Staff are preparing the building for remediation, and paint stabilization is expected to begin next week.

These schools will not reopen until MHD verifies that they meet lead safety standards. MPS and MHD will continue providing regular updates to affected families at these schools.

### **Polling Places and Voter Safety**

Some MPS buildings—including Fernwood Montessori and LaFollette School—serve as polling locations for the upcoming April 1 election. The City of Milwaukee Election Commission (MEC) is working in close coordination with MHD and MPS to ensure safe voting conditions.

Voting will take place in newer areas of these buildings, away from affected spaces. All remediation and cleaning work will be paused on Election Day, and MHD-approved precautionary measures will be in place to protect voters and election workers.

MHD has reviewed the current conditions and precautionary steps in place and believes it is safe to vote at these locations. We encourage all residents to make informed decisions and exercise their right to vote. If voters are concerned about potential exposure, MHD recommends taking the following precautions:

- Remove shoes before entering your home to prevent tracking in dust.
- Wash hands thoroughly after visiting any public building.
- If young children accompany you to a polling site, avoid allowing them to touch floors, windowsills, or dusty surfaces.

### **Lead Testing for Children**

If your child has not yet been tested for lead exposure, please speak with your child's primary care provider or attend one of the free screening clinics. Testing is the only way to confirm exposure. Clinic dates can be found at [milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead](http://milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead) and [mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport](http://mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport).

We understand this remains a stressful and uncertain time, and we are grateful for your partnership as we continue working toward safe and healthy learning environments for every child in Milwaukee Public Schools.

Sincerely,

**Home Environmental Health**  
City of Milwaukee Health Department

**Office of School Administration**  
Milwaukee Public Schools