

To: Milwaukee Public Schools Families and Staff
From: City of Milwaukee Health Department and Milwaukee Public Schools
Date: February 27, 2025
Subject: Lead Hazard Remediation & Next Steps for MPS Families

Ensuring the safety of students and staff remains our top priority. **The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has identified unsafe lead dust levels at Trowbridge Elementary and is requiring the school to temporarily close starting Monday, March 3, 2025, for additional remediation and safety assessments.**

While this work is completed, MPS is relocating Trowbridge students to Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (1017 N. 12th St.) to ensure continuity of learning. Families will receive additional details from MPS regarding transportation and logistics.

MHD continues to conduct inspections and lead hazard assessments in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) buildings. While lead hazards have been found in multiple schools, immediate actions are being taken to address them.

What MHD Found

Lead hazards have been identified in multiple MPS buildings, particularly those built before 1978, when lead-based paint was commonly used. When deteriorating, this paint can create lead dust, which poses serious health risks, especially for young children and those with special needs.

- **Trowbridge Elementary:** Unsafe lead dust levels have been detected in areas previously remediated and cleaned. As a result, MHD is requiring Trowbridge to temporarily close for additional remediation and safety assessments.
- **Golda Meir Lower Campus, Kagel, and Maryland Avenue Montessori:** Lead hazards have been documented. MHD is working with MPS to ensure urgent cleaning and containment measures are in place.

What MPS & MHD Are Doing

- Conducting deep cleaning and remediation in impacted areas.
- Bringing in environmental specialists to ensure safe and thorough cleaning practices.
- Ensuring all lead hazard remediation meets MHD safety standards before affected areas are reopened.

What Families Can Do

- Have your child tested for lead exposure. Children under age 6 are especially vulnerable. Lead testing is available through your primary care provider or at MHD clinics.
- Take steps 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 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).

- Stay informed. Visit the MHD Home Environmental Health webpage (www.milwaukee.gov/HEH) for up-to-date reports, safety guidance, and resources.

We understand that these findings may be concerning, and we want to assure you that MPS and MHD are taking every necessary step to ensure student and staff safety. We will continue to provide regular updates and communicate any additional actions as they arise.

If you have any questions, please contact MPS Manager of Health Services Tashanda Edelen at edelentn@milwaukee.k12.wi.us or visit www.milwaukee.gov/HEH for resources and ways to connect with the MHD lead team.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Totoraitis, PhD
Commissioner of Health
City of Milwaukee Health Department

Eduardo Galvan
Interim Superintendent
Milwaukee Public Schools