

**March 13, 2025**

**Subject:** Temporary Closure of Starms Early Childhood Center Due to Lead Hazard Remediation

Dear Starms Early Childhood Families and Staff,

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), in collaboration with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), has identified significant lead hazards at Starms Early Childhood Center through visual inspections conducted this week. Due to the potential risk of exposure to students and staff, **MHD has determined that Starms Early Childhood Center must be temporarily closed for remediation, effective Monday, March 17.**

No additional lead poisoned children have been identified at the school. The temporary closure is out of an abundance of caution and to ensure MPS facilities teams have the space to safely address 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 required lead remediation and cleaning have been completed.
- Starms Early Childhood students and staff temporarily will relocate to nearby Starms Discovery Learning Center (2035 N. 25th St.). Classroom materials and other items should be left at Starms ECC.
- School hours will remain the same (9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
- Any student medications should be picked up from Starms ECC on Friday, March 14.
- MHD will continue to assess conditions and monitor remediation efforts 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](http://www.milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead) and [mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport](http://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:** A free lead screening clinic for students at impacted schools, including Starms Early Childhood, will be held on Saturday, March 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bradley Tech (700 S. 4th St.). Additional screening opportunities will be announced in the coming days.
- **Lead Testing for Young Children:** MHD strongly encourages families to have affected MPS students and children under age 6 tested for lead exposure. Testing is available through your child's primary care provider.

We will continue to share updates as more information becomes available. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we take every step necessary to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Sincerely,

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

**Office of School Administration**  
Milwaukee Public Schools