

March 27, 2025

Subject: Lead Safety Progress Update for LaFollette School

Dear LaFollette Families and Staff,

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) are continuing efforts to remediate lead hazards at LaFollette School. To ensure the safety of students and staff, **the school will remain closed after spring break**. We understand that this closure is disruptive, and we appreciate your patience as we work to remediate all lead hazards and conduct necessary safety evaluations.

MPS continues to clean and remediate affected areas, and families should continue following lead-safe precautions at home. At this time, we do not have a confirmed reopening date for LaFollette. The school will only reopen once it is safe to do so, and MHD has verified that all safety standards have been met.

Next Steps and What Families Should Know

LaFollette students should continue attending Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (1017 N. 12th St.) until further notice.

Staff have been preparing the building for lead hazard remediation. School teams have assisted with organizing classrooms and removing wall displays, while district facilities crews are currently arranging furniture to provide access to painted wall surfaces. Paint stabilization work is expected to begin next week and will follow state-approved lead-safe procedures. Once all work is complete, MHD will reinspect the building to ensure it meets lead safety standards before reopening.

An MPS virtual town hall will be held on **Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m.** to provide updates and answer questions. More details on how to join will be shared soon.

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).

Polling Places and Voter Safety

LaFollette serves as one of many 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 the building, 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.

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.

Families can find updates, information on screening clinics, and public health resources on MHD's website at www.milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead and mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport. For additional resources, visit www.milwaukee.gov/HEH.

Both MPS and MHD are dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of LaFollette students and staff. We appreciate your patience as we continue our efforts and will provide further updates next week.

Sincerely,

Home Environmental Health
City of Milwaukee Health Department

Office of School Administration
Milwaukee Public Schools