

March 27, 2025

**Subject:** Lead Safety Progress Update for Starms Early Childhood Center

Dear Starms Families and Staff,

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) are continuing efforts to remediate lead hazards at Starms Early Childhood Center. 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 Starms. 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**

Starms students should continue attending Starms Discovery Learning Center (2035 N. 25th St.) until further notice.

Preparation for lead hazard remediation is well underway. School staff have organized classrooms and removed displays from walls, while district facilities teams have repositioned furniture to allow access to painted wall surfaces. Minor paint touchups have already begun in areas that do not involve disturbed lead paint. More extensive surface preparation, which follows state-regulated lead-safe work practices, is expected to begin later this week. MHD will reinspect the school once all cleaning and stabilization efforts are complete.

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).

### **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](http://www.milwaukee.gov/MPS-Lead) and [mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport](http://mpsmke.com/mpsleadreport). For additional resources, visit [www.milwaukee.gov/HEH](http://www.milwaukee.gov/HEH).

Both MPS and MHD are dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of Starms 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