

AOS 98 | ROCKY CHANNELS SCHOOL SYSTEM

Boothbay * Boothbay Harbor * Edgecomb * Southport * Georgetown

Office of Superintendents
51 Emery Lane
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538
207.633.2874
su49@roadrunner.com



Eileen King, Superintendent
Shawn Carlson PhD. Asst. Superintendent
Lisa Smith, Dir. Of Sp. Services
Special Services # 207.633.6699

March 31, 2017

Dear Parents;

Last week, Dave Benner, the Director of Plant Operation and Maintenance for the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor C.S.D. informed me that he had received some concerns about the taste of the water at the Boothbay Region High School. As a result, I requested that we run water tests from cold-water sources from both schools.

Dave Benner collected 10 samples from each school last weekend, and delivered the samples to A & L Laboratory, Inc. in Auburn on Monday and received the results late yesterday afternoon.

The results showed that we had one preliminary failure for low levels of lead at Boothbay Region High School, and four preliminary failures for low level of lead at Boothbay Region Elementary School. As a result, the following action steps have been taken:

- **We have issued a "no use" order for drinking water immediately in all locations at both schools.**
- **All water fountains and bubblers have been shut down.**
- **Staff and students were notified at the start of school today.**
- **Bottled water will be used for all food preparation.**
- **We have contacted Poland Spring and they are delivering water coolers today and Monday that will be placed in strategic locations in the schools for students, staff and visitors for water consumption. The coolers will remain in place until the problem has been remedied.**
- **70 cases of water have been purchased and will be placed in classrooms and other locations throughout the schools today to be used until Poland Spring delivers the coolers.**
- **We have forwarded the results to Maine Rural Water to develop a corrective plan.**
- **All cold-water taps in both schools, including those recently tested, will be tested.**
- **We are undertaking efforts to determine the cause.**
- **We have met with Jon Ziegler from the Boothbay Water District to ask for assistance in addressing this issue.**

Boothbay Region Elementary
238 Townsend Ave.
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538

Boothbay Region High School
236 Townsend Ave.
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538

Edgecomb Eddy School
157 Boothbay Road
Edgecomb, ME 04556

Southport Central School
PO Box 279
Southport, ME 04576

Georgetown Central School
PO Box 469
Georgetown, ME 04548

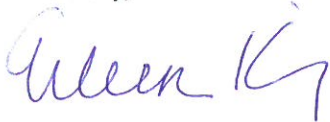
In preliminary conversations with Maine Rural Water, the source of these low levels of lead are quite often caused by the fixtures, as lead can enter drinking water when clean water interacts with plumbing and fixtures. Dave Benner will replace the five fixtures where the water did not pass the test, and we will re-test those locations again. Replacement of other fixtures and water fountains are being discussed at this time.

I understand that notices such as these can cause alarm, so I want to assure you that we are taking an abundance of care. We are addressing this issue as quickly as possible. Although the majority of our water samples were acceptable, it is our intent that all of the water dispensed at our schools easily meets the EPA's recommended standards, as the safety and health of our staff and students remain our top priority. We will keep you informed as to the progress in addressing this issue.

The Board of Trustees will be meeting Wednesday, April 5 at 5:15 p.m. in the Boothbay Region High School library to review our plan for addressing this issue. You are welcome to attend and we will be happy to address any questions you have.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please call me or our Assistant Superintendent Shawn Carlson at your convenience at 633-2874.

Sincerely,



Eileen King
Superintendent AOS 98