

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Burke Town School, VT0006658, violated the Lead and Copper Rule

Our water system recently violated drinking water requirements. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards and whether water treatment equipment is operating properly.

We are required to apply Orthophosphate to reduce the corrosion of Lead and Copper from plumbing components and fixtures into our drinking water. We are also required to test finished water Orthophosphate residual at routine frequencies from the water treatment plant. Results from orthophosphate samples collected **from October 2024 through January 2026** showed the orthophosphate residual levels were significantly below the minimum allowable value of 1.5 mg/L leaving the treatment plant and were so for more than nine days.

The low orthophosphate results indicate that the orthophosphate treatment system was not being operated correctly at the time of sample collection.

What Are the Sources of Lead?

The primary sources of lead exposure are deteriorating lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust and soil, and some plumbing materials.

Lead is rarely found in a water system's surface or groundwater source but may enter drinking water if plumbing materials such as solder or fixtures, including some made of chrome or brass, contain lead and corrode.

Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have plumbing, solder, and fixtures that contain lead.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider for information on testing your child's blood for lead. You can also find more information at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/drinking-water/lead-drinking-water>

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead In Your Water

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. (The samples the water system is required to collect for testing must be taken after the water was sitting in the pipes for at least 6 hours, known as "first-draw" samples.)
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. FDA set a limit for lead in bottled water of 5

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ISSUING PUBLIC NOTICE

This is a Tier 2 Treatment Technique violation, meaning you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but **within 30 days** after you learn of the violation and this notice must be repeated every three (3) months, or until the violation is resolved. [40 CFR 141.203(b)].

You must issue a repeat notice every three months (90 days) for as long as the violation persists.

Methods of Distribution

- Posting in a conspicuous location within *every* school building; and
- Posting on school website for Burke Town School; and
- Attached in an e-mail sent to:
 - Ana Hebert, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
(ana.hebert@vermont.gov)
 - Joshua Gravlin, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
(joshua.gravlin@vermont.gov)
 - Janelle Wilbur, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
(Janelle.wilbur@vermont.gov)
(*All Three must be CC'd on all emailed notices; initial and repeat*)
 - All current staff
 - All current parents of students.

In addition, systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method [40 CFR 141.203(c)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if available.

The notice on the next page is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include all required Public Notice elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

What happened? What is being done?

This section of the public notice **MUST** be completed prior to distributing. Describe why the situation exists and what corrective actions you took or will be taken. (e.g. exploring treatment options, new source, etc.)

Repeat Notices

For repeat notices, you should state how long the violation has been ongoing and remind consumers of when you sent out any previous notices. If you are making progress, describe it. Alternatively, if funding or other issues are delaying progress, let consumers know. It may be helpful to show customers the results of the contaminant over time. Failure to issue timely public notice is a violation of the Water Supply Rule.

After Issuing the Notice

Submit a copy of each type of notice and the Public Notice Certification to the Division within ten (10) days from the time you issue the notice. The certification states that you have met all the public notice requirements. The Division suggests you inform your customers when the violation is resolved.

ppb. Not all water filters remove lead. Check the product for independent testing from a group such as NSF International (NSF.org, 800-673-8010) that verifies a specific model of filter removes lead.

- **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the phone number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead by a certified laboratory. Results may differ between first-draw water and water collected after the tap has been flushed.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures that contain lead.** The amount of lead allowed in plumbing solder and fixtures has been reduced by several state and federal laws over the last few decades.

What Happened? What is being done?

Describe Corrective Action: State Chemist came to school.

Samples were taken and shown to be within acceptable limits

For more information from the water system, contact: Dylan Handy at 802-467-1405 or 3293 Burke Hollow Rd, W. Burke VT 05855, dhandy@kingdomeast.org.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

CERTIFICATION Burke Town School, VT0006658

Method(s) of Distribution: Posting, email, website Date Distributed: 2/26/26
(e.g. hand or direct delivery, posting, television, radio)

I Dylan Handy (print name) Certify, as the Responsible Person (or authorized representative) of the water system indicated above, that the public notice has been provided to customers in accordance with the delivery, content, and format requirements and deadlines in the Vermont Water Supply Rule (Chapter 21, Subchapter 21-10).

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 2/26/26

*Within 10 days of issuance of public notice, send a copy of the notice and this certification to:
VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division,
1 National Life Drive – Davis 4, Montpelier, VT 05620-3521*

OR

Email to ana.hebert@vermont.gov

