

## **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.

#### **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 ppb. Not all water filters remove lead. Check the product for independent testing from