

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

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SUPERINTENDENT

Equal Opportunity Employer

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Dear Families and Staff:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is sending you this email to offer their assistance and provide information that they hope is helpful. It does not replace or supersede any information that you have received from their sister agency, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to heighten awareness of the importance of reducing and preventing exposure to lead, particularly by pregnant women, infants, and young children. It has come to our attention that recent drinking water testing at Tisbury Elementary in Tisbury indicated that lead was detected in drinking water.

It is important to reduce lead exposures as much as possible - particularly for young children, pregnant women, and infants - because there is no safe level of lead exposure. DPH staff are available to assist your office with risk communication as well as answer health-related questions that you, your staff, students, or parents/guardians may have related to potential exposure to lead in drinking water. Please feel free to contact the DPH Bureau of Environmental Health at 617-624-5757 for assistance with any health-related questions or concerns.

A public health fact sheet, *Lead in Drinking Water for Schools and Childcare Facilities*, is attached. This fact sheet is also available in English and Spanish at DPH's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-brochures-and-fact-sheets>. DPH encourages you to share this fact sheet with those who may have questions about the health risks associated with lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities.

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program can provide you with guidance on responding to the detection of lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. The MassDEP Drinking Water Program can be contacted at 617-292-5770, or by email at Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us. Also visit the MassDEP website at: <https://www.mass.gov/assistance-program-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water>.

Thank you,

Matthew D'Andrea, LP.D.