

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER

Our Lamoille Union campus' water system, as a matter of standard practice, is always being monitored and tested for safety. Testing has shown that copper levels have been rising. In answer to these increased levels, we feel it important to be proactive in finding an alternative water source.

What's happening?

We routinely sample our drinking water for bacteria, minerals and organics. There are acceptable levels of these elements that are found in Vermont wells and water supplies. On average, we test our water 10 times per month to insure safety. Latest tests have shown copper levels in the water, while still within state and federal guidelines, have inched upward. Since these levels are increasing, the Agency of Natural Resources (A.N.R.) has categorized our water system as a "non-compliant" system. **Our water is safe, and this is not an emergency.** If it had been, the Lamoille Union School District would have been issued a *Stop Drinking Order* immediately.

How did this occur?

Typically, copper enters water supplies by leaching from copper or brass pipes and plumbing components. The more corrosive a water source is, the more likely these elements will leach from the pipes into the water system. Water from our current 2006 well has been found to be more corrosive than our other existing well. It is believed that this higher level is compromising the quality of our water by creating an adverse reaction that promotes the leaching of this metal into the drinking water. We have found that we are not able to treat the corrosiveness through standard treatment. As a result, we must find a different source for our water.

When will action take place to remedy this situation?

Returning to compliance means that we will be placed on a time-line to get off our 2006 well. In consultation with the A.N.R we will switch to our other existing well, which is safe, and expand our testing in scope and frequency until a permanent water source solution can be designed and enacted. The switch back to our existing well will most likely occur during February break to be the least disruptive to the school-day.

What options are we considering in finding a long-term solution?

Regardless of the direction that is determined for a long-term solution, we will be proactive and install some localized filtering infrastructure that will be placed in our production kitchens, culinary program kitchen and the newer drinking fountains. In the event of any detection above drinking water standards that could trigger a stop drinking order, we would still be able to keep the campus open and operate school.

At this point, our options for a long term solution appear to be: 1) drill a new well, 2) hook to town water, or 3) build a small water treatment building.

Who may I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact: Dylan LaFlam, Facilities Director, 802 851-1394 dlaflam@luhs18.org, or Doug Kievit-Kylar of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, at 802 585-4891.