



June 14, 2024

Dear Okemos Community,

We continue to work with our expert partners on environmental testing and remediation in our district, while reflecting on our procedures and making updates when needed. Some families recently shared feedback about transparency regarding the water and environmental testing done in our school buildings this year. Although there is no new testing information, we want to make sure we continue to do our part to keep our community informed and all students and staff safe.

As part of this review of the procedures, the Ingham County Health Department clarified when to seek a blood lead test for your student if you would like to have them tested. This message also is updated on our environmental testing [website](#) and detailed in their communication attached to this email.

“A blood lead test can tell if a person has had recent or ongoing exposures to lead. While the lead in the body will decrease gradually after exposure stops, those who have concerns regarding recent or ongoing lead exposure should receive a blood lead test.”

Our communications reflect the guidance we received from the environmental health and childhood lead experts at the health department and from the environmental testing company ERG. We continue to share and seek feedback on our communications with them throughout the process. As a district, we recognize where our expertise ends and where we need their support.

Again, please visit [opsenvironmental.net](https://opsenvironmental.net) for detailed information about the testing done in each of our classroom buildings, including parent and staff communications and the lab results of the tests. Each building is represented under the “Lead Water Testing” tab at the top of the page.

When future environmental testing is done across the district, the results will continue to be added to the website and shared with the current families and staff at each school. The school community can expect updates in newsletters as new results are posted to bring awareness to newly posted results at other schools. Please check the website to stay up to date and find resources at any time.

We will continue to direct students to drink water only from filtered bottle filling stations throughout the buildings, which filter out lead and other contaminants. Signs remain posted showing where students should fill their water bottles, and where they should not drink out of faucets.

Okemos is working to implement Michigan’s Clean Water Drinking Act, known as the “Filter First Law,” ahead of the state’s 2025-26 deadline, working directly with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The state recently released guidance on the law, which will include a Drinking Water Management Plan template, guidance for filters, and training. Again, we are working closely with EGLE to make sure all of our buildings are compliant with the new law ahead of schedule.

If you would like your student to be tested for lead exposure, please contact your pediatrician's office or get more information from the health department. If you have additional questions, contact the ICHD Childhood Lead Program at 517-887-4501.

The Okemos Public Schools will continue to follow the guidance of the experts and prioritize a safe and healthy learning environment for the well-being of our students, staff and community.

John J. Hood  
Superintendent

**Resources:**

- **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services -**  
[Lead and Your Health](#)

- **Ingham County Health Department -**  
[Lead Testing Form](#)

Childhood Lead Program: 517-887-4501

Lead Questions - ICHD Environmental Division: 517-887-4312

- **Okemos Public Schools -**

Health Team: 517-706-5008

Operations: 517-706-5039

Questions: [communication@okemosk12.net](mailto:communication@okemosk12.net)

- **Michigan Filter First Law -**

[Filter First Law](#)