



October 29, 2018

RE: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detected in Robinson Elementary Water Supply

To our Robinson Elementary School Parents,

Your student's safety is our utmost concern. Today, we were notified by The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that Robinson Elementary School's water supply tested positive for the presence of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in an amount greater than the EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level. School officials were immediately notified, bottled water was immediately provided to our students and we are taking every precaution moving forward. The letter below outlines the background behind this newly-emerging contaminant, as well as Grand Haven Area Public School's continued plan to ensure the safety of our students.

The MEDQ is retesting the water immediately, and we expect results by Wednesday. All other water sources in the district have been tested and no levels of PFAS have been detected. We will be sending along more information as it becomes available, but please visit miottawa.org/PFAS for the most up-to-date information. More details on the specifics of the testing and next steps are below. Please know we are committed to providing the safest possible environment for our students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Superintendent Andrew Ingall at 616.850.5000.

The MDEQ has begun a statewide initiative to test drinking water from all schools that use well water and community water supplies. The test is looking for a group of manmade chemicals called per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). MDEQ is taking this precautionary step of testing these drinking water sources to determine if public health actions are needed.

It is not uncommon to find low levels of PFAS in drinking water supplies, as PFAS can be found in fire-fighting foams, stain repellents, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, food wrappers, and many other household products. They do not break down in the environment and move easily into water.

The EPA set a Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level for two PFAS in drinking water, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The LHA level is 70 parts per trillion (ppt, equal to 70 ng/L) for PFOA and PFOS combined, or individually if only one is present. The EPA has not set health advisory levels for other PFAS compounds.

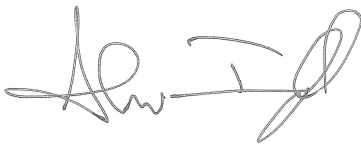
Robinson Elementary School was tested by AECOM, MDEQ's contractor. The test results can be found on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team website, www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse. The results show that of the PFOA and PFOS tested, PFOA levels of 9 ppt, and PFOS levels of 100 ppt were found in the water. This level is above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lifetime health advisory (LHA).

Based on the test results, The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is providing an advisory on the use of the schools drinking water in the enclosed letter.

Grand Haven Area Public Schools is committed to providing our students and staff with quality drinking water. We are working closely with MDEQ. The MDEQ will begin actions to investigate the source of the PFAS contamination. Robinson Elementary School is taking the following measures to ensure the quality of your water:

1. As soon as Grand Haven Area Public Schools was informed of test results, staff and teachers were immediately notified to cease any ingestion of water, both for drinking and for cooking. (Please note, skin contact with water, such as hand-washing, does not pose a threat.)
2. Bottled water was immediately dispatched to Robinson Elementary School for use. Water will continue to be provided throughout the testing and results.
3. MDEQ will resample immediately, with results expected by Wednesday.
4. GHAPS is working with the MDEQ, Ottawa County Health Department, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and other local and state agencies to identify a plan with timeline to address this contamination.
5. From there, GHAPS will continue to work with the agencies above to determine next steps, including investigating the source and determining a long term plan for the water supply at Robinson.

Sincerely,



Andrew Ingall
Superintendent

For information on PFAS including possible health outcomes, visit these websites:

- State of Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website serving as the main resource for public information on PFAS contamination in Michigan www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) website including health information, exposure, and links to additional resources www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) website including basic information, U.S. EPA actions, and links to informational resources www.epa.gov/pfas
- PFAS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Factsheet: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/docs/pfas_fact_sheet.pdf
- Talking to Your Doctor Factsheet: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/docs/Talking_to_Doctor.pdf