



EDWARDSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**A Tradition of
Educational Excellence**

JAMES A. KNOLL, SUPERINTENDENT

September 6, 2018

RE: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Dear Eagle Lake Families,

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (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 repellants, 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 LHA (Lifetime Health Advisory) 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. The State of Michigan is using 70 ppt for decision making purposes.

The two Eagle Lake wells were 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, Well #1 had no traces of PFAS, and Well #2 had a reading of 7, which is considered at the "no harm" level, found in the water. The level is below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lifetime health advisory (LHA).

Eagle Lake Elementary is committed to providing our staff and students with quality drinking water. As your local school, we are working closely with MDEQ to maintain the quality of our water. Edwardsburg Public Schools will also conduct independent water samplings approximately every 6 months, versus the state recommendation of testing every 12 months, to remain proactive in the situation. Further communication will be provided as needed.

For health related questions, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at 1-800-648-6942 or visit one of the websites below.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. James Knoll, Superintendent of Schools