

January 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff:

The Readington Township School District is committed to protecting the health of our students, teachers, and staff. In late December 2019, the district informed the community that water from one of two wells servicing Readington Middle School tested positive for Total Coliform and E. Coli bacteria. This was the result of regular testing of drinking water for contaminants performed by a certified lab in accordance with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations. Subsequent testing verified the initial finding.

The district immediately took proactive measures including providing bottled water to students, teachers, and staff, supplying an alternative water source to the kitchen for cooking and providing alternative lavatories. The district further shut off one well servicing the 8th Grade hallway at Readington Middle School.

Readington Middle School is serviced by two separate wells for drinking and potable water. Although one well is shut off, the second well remains open as a potable and drinking water location, as it currently tests negative for contamination. Therefore, there is full access to water and restrooms in the remainder of the building. The water testing results for Holland Brook School, Whitehouse School, and Three Bridges School are non-detectable. As a result, no action is required for those buildings.

The district, working in conjunction with the New Jersey DEP, identified potential causes of contamination including the penetration of localized ground water into the well through cracks inside underground pipe components between the well opening and the building. On January 17, 2020, the New Jersey DEP approved the district's remediation plan which includes:

- analyzing the ultra violet system and filters from well to building to ensure working appropriately,
- excavating and inspecting the well casing to seal any cracks in welding allowing water penetration,
- inspecting the piping and connections to ensure proper alignment in order to prevent water penetration and provide better support for future ground settling,
- inspecting and replacing o-rings and couplings to prevent leaking and contamination,
- installing a new vented/lockable well cap, and
- mounding of soil around the well casing to prevent surface water pooling.

The district procured third party experts to perform the repairs which are currently underway. On Saturday, January 25, 2020, the district anticipates to chlorinate the well and flush chlorinated water through all plumbing components and fixtures inside the building with the intent to disinfect. Once complete, water samples shall be taken by independent third parties to verify no further contamination. We shall continue to provide bottled water until the New Jersey DEP clears the district to reopen the closed well following remediation.

Please be assured that we take the health and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff very seriously. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office or Don Race, Facilities Manager, at 908-534-2859.

Sincerely,



Jason M. Bohm
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary