

Dear BPS families,

This letter is to inform you that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has begun a statewide initiative to test drinking water from all schools that use well water. They will also be testing 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.

Birmingham Public Schools does not have any schools or buildings using wells, and therefore our buildings will not be tested. However, the community water supplies that serve our district will be tested. As we learn any information regarding these community results, we will share them on our water resource page at www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/water

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.

At this time, there is no information that water from our communities would contain PFAS at levels of concern. The Birmingham Public Schools district is committed to providing customers with test results as soon as they are available.

To learn more about PFAS, you may 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
- Learn more about BPS water results at www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/water