



August 23, 2021

Dear Groves Families,

This past year, the District tested water in all facilities for lead, copper and Legionella. Messages were sent to staff and families sharing updates on the test results and Town Hall sessions were scheduled to answer questions. Throughout the school year, BPS worked to remediate and minimize problem areas while incorporating safety precautions for those still in the buildings, such as mask requirements and providing bottled water. These actions reduced the risk of exposure while we continued with in-person learning during the school year.

This summer, full remediation work began throughout the District. Sample results from Groves have shown that further work is needed to consider the exposure controlled. Because there are locations with Legionella Pneumophila, we are working with the Oakland County Health Division to determine remediation actions prior to the start of the school year. Additional samples will be taken from the identified areas following remediation.

We will continue in-person learning at Groves using the same risk reduction practices used during the past school year. It is important that our water continue to be used to support a healthy water system and keep our systems moving.

However, students and staff should bring water from home or use supplied bottled water from the District for drinking purposes while on campus. Masks are required as we work to remediate and control the bacteria.

More information about Legionella is provided below for your reference.

Is it safe to be in our buildings? Are showers safe to use?

Building users will wear a mask while using the water as an added precaution. We have taken these actions to reduce risk in these buildings while we work to remediate the problems. Showers in the locker rooms at Groves have had filters applied that make them safe for use. Legionella was not found in the shower faucets.

Why is it okay to wash your hands?

People are infected by inhaling aerosols containing *Legionella* bacteria. Hand washing is allowed and encouraged. Wearing a mask during handwashing or tasks with running water is required for further safety.

Is it safe to drink the water?

All students and staff should use water bottles provided by the District or bring water from home for drinking purposes. Water from our taps should not be used for drinking.

What is Legionella?

Legionella is a bacterium that can cause Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and, more rarely, extra pulmonary infections, collectively known as legionellosis. People can get Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac fever when they breathe in small droplets of water that contain *Legionella*. *Legionella* occurs naturally in fresh water environments, like lakes and streams. It can become a health concern when it grows and spreads in human-made building water systems.*(1) There are many strains of commonly occurring *Legionella*. Most are considered pathogenic, but most disease is caused by *Legionella pneumophila*, particularly serogroup **(2)

*(1) <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/fastfacts.html>

** (2) <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/clinicians/disease-specifics.html>

Are there symptoms to be aware of?

- Fever (typically between 102-105 degrees)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle aches
- Headache

Other common symptoms include:

- Confusion
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Chest pain

How long after exposure do symptoms begin?

It takes 2-14 days after exposure for symptoms to develop. Talk to your doctor if you believe you were exposed to *Legionella* and develop symptoms such as fever, cough, chills, or muscle aches.

Who can get Legionnaires' Disease?

Most healthy people do not get Legionnaires' disease after being exposed to *Legionella*.

People at highest risk are 50 years and older, as well as those who smoke or have chronic lung disease. Also at risk are persons with weakened immune systems, such as people with cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, transplant recipients, and those taking certain medications such as tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitors.

How is Legionnaires' Disease spread?

People get Legionnaires' Disease when they breathe in droplets of water that contain the bacteria. The bacteria are not spread from one person to another, so there is no contagious period.

What are the next steps:

BPS will work with water experts to continue remediation plans. BPS is working with Arch Environmental Services and DiHydro in these remediation efforts and consulting with Oakland County Health Division. The water will be sampled again at the conclusion of the treatment to determine if any adjustments need to be made to safety protocols.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a learning/working environment in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment. There will be no tolerance for discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, disability or age. The District prohibits harassment and other forms of discrimination whether occurring at school, on District property, in a District vehicle, or at any District related activity or event. The Superintendent will designate compliance officers and develop and implement regulations for the reporting, investigation and resolution of complaints of discrimination or harassment. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Students - Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of disability should be directed to: Executive Director of Special Education, 31301 Evergreen Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025, 248.203.3000. Direct all other inquiries related to discrimination to: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 31301 Evergreen Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025, 248.203.3000.

Groves Families,

One week from today begins another school year!

Please remember that, beginning today, all students, staff and visitors to the building are required to wear a mask while indoors on campus.

Below is additional information for back-to-school:

- If your student was not able to attend registration last week, he/she/they can come in this week any time between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to turn in forms and pick up first term textbooks. A make-up picture day will be scheduled later in the fall.
- School begins at 7:30 a.m. and doors will open for students beginning at 7:00 a.m. each day. The parent drop-off/pick up location is on the West Porch (enter off 13 Mile) and drop off at the doors nearest the cafeteria. The school day ends at 2:50 p.m. Here is our bell schedule: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WZj5L_5AscZRIjr3VSA4NxdGCoIalfrg9djqp_jdAjs/edit?usp=sharing
- Bus information will be available in PowerSchool, and also the Transportation Department will be mailing letters home this week with pick-up/drop off information. Busses will enter and drop off/pick up students in the back of the building near the music wing.
- The first day of school is a half day from 7:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Students will report to their first hour classes. We will spend the first day of school with activities that support our building goal of social and emotional wellness. It is important to us that we take the time with students to reconnect, and begin to build our inclusive learning environments. Students who have a class at Seaholm will not travel on the first day of school. Students should access PowerSchool to view their schedules, and to make sure there were no changes.
- Lunch is free again for all students this year. However, for funding purposes, if your family qualifies for free or reduced lunch prices, Chartwell's is asking you to fill out the application at www.lunchapp.com. Students who are in 11th and 12th grade who would like to leave campus at lunch need to turn in the parent permission form before obtaining a lunch pass.
- What students should bring with them to school each day: mask, water bottle, lap top/charger, books, writing utensils, and class materials. If your student does not have a lap top, we can check one out. Please complete this form, and Scott Mackinnon will be in touch with you.
<https://forms.gle/VawiQ49QLqdivhDf7>
- If your student needs to take medication during the school day, please complete the Medical Administration form and bring the medication to Mrs. Gullo in the Main Office.

Additional Information

- **PTA Information** - To pay for PTA memberships and to make donations, there are two options. One is to log into eFunds and these items are listed under "Pay Optional Fees" or families can write a check made out to Groves High School and use the paper form attached to this email. Forms can be turned into the Main Office. Thank you!

- Upcoming Vaccine Clinics

For those interested, Mills Pharmacy will be hosting COVID-19 vaccine clinics at **Berkshire Middle School** and **Derby Middle School** in the upcoming weeks for eligible individuals. Eligible individuals are those that are over 12 years of age who have not received any vaccine in the 2 weeks prior to the clinic. Anyone who is eligible is welcome to attend. Mills Pharmacy will be administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and vaccines will be offered free of charge. Appointments are required. Please note that there are time slots reserved at Berkshire specifically for BPS staff and their families only, but you are welcome to attend any clinic at any time that best accommodates your schedule! Dates for these clinics are as follows:

- **Berkshire Clinics**
 - 1st dose – **Thursday, August 26, 2021 from 2:30 - 4:30 for staff and their families only**, 4:30 – 7 pm open to all that are eligible
 - 2nd dose – **Thursday, September 16, 2021 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm for staff and their families only**, 4:30 – 7 pm open to all that are eligible
- **Derby Clinics**
 - 1st dose – Wednesday, September 1, 2021 from 2:30 – 5:30 pm open to all that are eligible
 - 2nd dose – Wednesday, September 22, 2021 from 2:30 – 5:30 pm open to all that are eligible

Please note that you will need to report to the same location that you received your first dose at to receive your second dose.

To register for these clinics, please visit the Mills Pharmacy website and click on the COVID-19 vaccination page: [COVID-19 Vaccination – Mills Apothecary \(millspharmacy.com\)](https://millspharmacy.com). There, parents/guardians will complete a copy of the COVID-19 consent form and send the following documentation to vaccine@millspharmacy.com with the school name.

1. [Consent Form](#)
2. A picture of your driver's license (if applicable)
3. Picture of insurance card (may specify if patient does not have coverage)

You will receive an email confirmation once your documents are received with a link to sign up for an appointment slot. Please schedule an appointment under the correct site (either Berkshire or Derby) COVID-19 Vaccine option and select the correct service. Appointments are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. **Individuals will receive their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card after receiving their 2nd dose.**

Parents/guardians do not need to be present at the vaccine clinic as long as the consent form is complete and turned in at the time of the appointment. Mills Pharmacy will not be able to administer a vaccine to a student or individual without a signed consent form. Mills Pharmacy will review the consent form prior to administering the vaccine and individuals will need to wait for 15 minutes following vaccine administration for observation. Any questions can be directed to vaccine@millspharmacy.com.

Please reach out this week if you have questions. I am very excited to see our students again next week!

Thank you,

Dr. Smith

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File attachments:

[Groves Optional Pay List 2021-2022.docx](#)