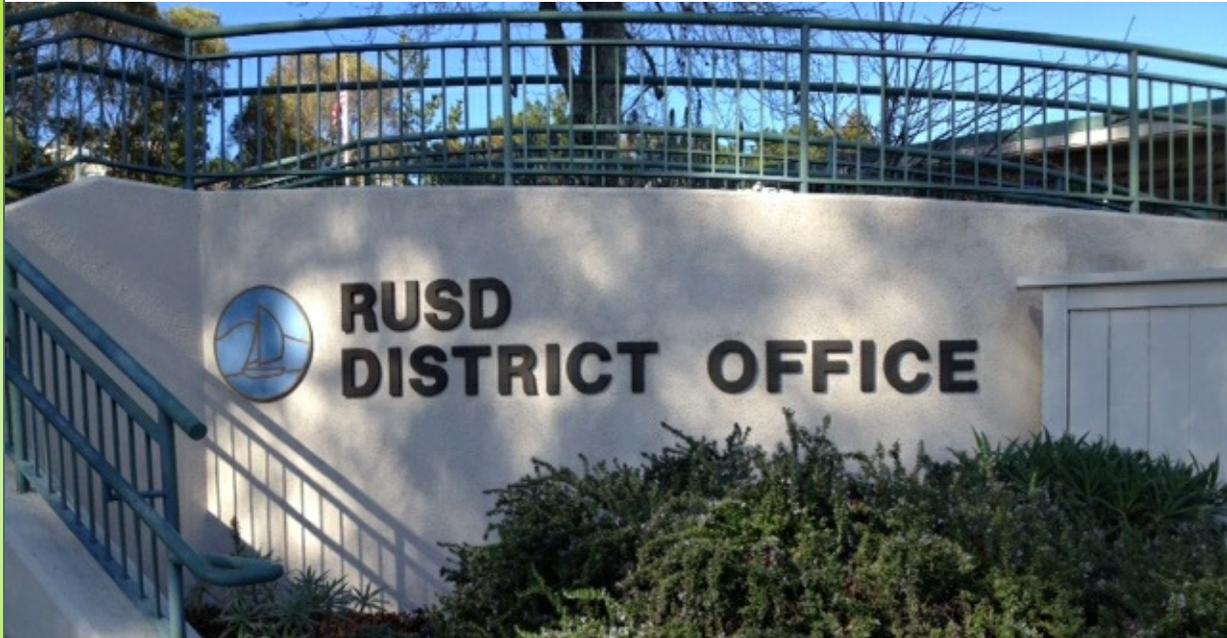


A Message From the Office of the Superintendent



Dear Parents and Guardians,

On [August 30](#), I sent a letter to notify you that we had turned off water sources to drinking fountains at Bel Aire school out of an abundance of caution after finding irregular variances in water testing results for lead. In the process, we learned that we did not follow the recommended practice of collecting water samples for testing no more than 48 hours and no less than 6 hours after water has been running. I sent you another letter on September 5 to let you know that we would have support from Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) on next steps.

Working in collaboration with MMWD, their employees conducted the water sampling last Wednesday in all Bel Aire classrooms, and drinking fountains. Under the direction of MMWD, our staff flushed water lines for 15 minutes on Tuesday evening prior to MMWD staff collecting samples on Wednesday morning that was completed by 7:30 am. The water was turned off immediately following the testing.

The new test results have been received, and we will be taking corrective action on two required locations with results of 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead. This is equivalent to one drop in an Olympic size swimming pool. These locations were the drinking fountain in classroom C3 (14.7 ppb) and the drinking fountain in the E building hallway (17.4 ppb). In addition to these locations, we will also address the drinking fountain by the backstop on the playfield that receives frequent vandalism (12.3 ppb). The B building classrooms identified in our prior testing showed no lead detection. The prior irregular readings were present since we tested water that had been sitting for a long period of time.

For the locations noted above, we will be replacing pipes and fixtures and then retesting will be completed by MMWD. This work will take approximately 2 weeks and we will leave the water off until it has been completed. To eliminate any future concerns about lead levels in water, I have made the decision to implement the following actions:

1. Cap off the drinking fountain fixture in every classroom
2. Provide three (3) hydration stations on campus, with National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Standard 53 filters, that have drinking fountain and water bottle filling elements which will supplement our existing common area drinking fountains
3. Conduct annual water testing of all drinking fountains by means of recommended practices

Please remember there was no lead detected in water sources at Reed and Del Mar. Out of an abundance of caution we will implement the same actions as noted above at our other two schools to eliminate any future concerns. This project should be completed within the next month if we are able to receive all supplies and materials in a timely manner. Since no lead was detected at these schools, the water will remain on throughout the process.

As I shared with you in my letter dated [September 5, 2019](#), Dr. Matt Willis provided the following information:

Parents may find it helpful to know that no cases of elevated lead levels in Marin County children have been traced to any water source in the past five years. Pediatricians perform routine lead blood level testing as part of Well Child visits in Marin, and the Health Department follows up on any cases of elevated levels. These happen very rarely and give us a picture of the lead sources that may be in our community. The most common source is paint, and in no cases has a water supply been identified as the source.

I am truly grateful to our community for providing support and patience as we complete this process to ensure we are doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff is maintained at all times. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Join Our Mailing List!

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