



For Immediate Release

October 11, 2018

LOW LEVEL DRINKING WATER PFAS RESULT AT LELAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

This summer the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) began an initiative to test drinking water from all schools that use well water and community water systems for the manmade chemicals called per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a lifetime health advisory (LHA) level for two PFAS compounds 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.

As part of the State's initiative, the Leland Public School's water supply was tested on September 5, 2018. The results of the sample analysis were received on October 9, 2018, and show that of the PFOA and PFOS tested, 7 parts per trillion were found in the water. The level is well below the EPA's lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion and the health concern is considered to be low.

Even though water results were below the lifetime health advisory level, the water will be resampled to confirm the results. In the meantime, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (BLDHD) and Leland Public School administration are working closely with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to ensure the quality of the drinking water. We are also coordinating efforts with the Department of Environmental Quality's Remediation & Redevelopment Division (RRD) and Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance Division (DWMAD) to investigate the source of the PFAS.

Any questions regarding wells or drinking water at or around Leland Public School should be directed to the BLDHD's Environmental Health Division at 231-882-2109.

For health-related questions, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-648-6942.

Additional information regarding PFAS can be found at:

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse>

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/overview.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

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Media Contact:

James Reardon, jreardon@bldhd.org, 231-256-0235