

To: Trowbridge School Families and Staff

From: City of Milwaukee Health Department and Milwaukee Public Schools

Date: February 27, 2025

Subject: Temporary Closure of Trowbridge School & Lead Screening Recommendations

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is requiring the temporary closure of Trowbridge School beginning Monday, March 3, 2025, due to lead safety concerns. Recent testing identified elevated levels of lead dust in areas that underwent remediation, which does not meet the health and safety standards required for a child-occupied facility serving young children. Given these findings, the school must close while further assessments take place.

Student Learning During Closure

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is working to make the transition to a temporary school site as seamless as possible for students and families.

- **Starting Monday, March 3, Trowbridge students will attend Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (1017 N. 12th St.) to continue their learning.**
- Students will have the same teachers they have had all school year.
- School hours (7:25 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.) will remain the same.
- Student medications should be picked up from Trowbridge by Friday, February 28.
- If your student is already assigned a bus, your student will be taken to WCLL. If you need transportation for your child, please contact MPS Transportation at (414) 475-8922.

Families who wish to keep their children home on Friday, February 28, should contact the Trowbridge office to arrange an excused absence.

At this time, the date for students to return to Trowbridge is not yet known. Students will only return once lead hazards have been fully addressed and the Health Department confirms that the school is safe.

What MPS & MHD Are Doing

- MPS Facilities and Maintenance Services has been addressing lead hazards at Trowbridge since January.
- Certified lead-paint workers have already stabilized areas of concern.
- Workers will conduct a deep cleaning of the school this weekend.
- MHD will be on-site Monday to assess conditions and determine next steps.

What Families Can Do

- Have your child tested for lead exposure. Children under age 6 are especially vulnerable. Lead testing is available through your primary care provider. A MHD lead screening clinic is coming the week of March 10th.
- Take steps at home to reduce lead exposure:
 - Use wet wipes to clean surfaces like floors, windows, and furniture to remove lead dust.
 - Remove shoes at the door to prevent tracking in dirt with lead dust.

- Wash toys frequently, especially for very young children.
- Provide foods rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C to help prevent lead absorption.
- Run tap water cold for three minutes before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Use a water filter certified to remove lead (NSF/ANSI 53).
- Stay informed. Visit the MHD Home Environmental Health webpage (www.milwaukee.gov/HEH) for up-to-date reports, safety guidance, and resources.

We understand that this news may be concerning, and we are committed to taking every necessary step to ensure student and staff safety. We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

For questions, please contact MPS Manager of Health Services Tashanda Edelen at edelentn@milwaukee.k12.wi.us or visit www.milwaukee.gov/HEH for resources and ways to connect with the MHD lead team.

Sincerely,

Michael Totoraitis, PhD
Commissioner of Health
City of Milwaukee Health Department

Eduardo Galvan
Interim Superintendent
Milwaukee Public Schools