



West Orange Public Schools
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Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jeffrey S. Rutzky

STATEMENT FROM WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

UPDATE ON LEGIONELLA TESTING (September 25, 2018)

The last update indicated that all schools and facilities would be tested for Legionella bacteria. This update provides the results along with the remediation process on the Legionella testing at the schools, Administration and Transportation Buildings. We are expecting to have Redwood's retesting results, after the chlorination process, by Friday, September 28th.

During the first week of September, Garden State Environmental finished testing all of the schools and the Administration Building for Legionella bacteria. The Transportation building will be finished Thursday, September 27th. Samples for Legionella bacteria were positive in the Administration Building and all schools except Liberty Middle School, Betty Maddalena Early Learning Center, and Kelly Elementary School. To view the results for each building, [click here](#).

OMEGA Environmental will be completing the chlorination process in each affected building that tested positive for Legionella bacteria. The chlorination process eliminates all bacteria in the pipes. The process includes the following steps: (1) chlorine is pumped into the hot water heater and remains in the hot water tank for four hours to eliminate any bacteria, (2) chlorine is then pumped through the hot water piping system and remains in the system for fourteen hours to eliminate any bacteria and all aerators on every sink in the building is cleaned and chlorinated, (3) chlorinated water is drained from the hot water tank and hot water piping system and flushed with fresh water, (4) water samples are drawn and retested after the chlorination process to verify that the water again meets the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

After the chlorination process is completed, Garden State Environmental will be retesting each water source that tested positive. The retesting results take approximately 7-10 days for each building.

Please know that OMEGA Environmental is doing the best they can to complete the chlorination process as quickly as possible. We have tried to hire other companies who can assist OMEGA Environmental in the chlorination process but there are very few in New Jersey.

The following steps have been or will be completed in the schools, Administration and Transportation Buildings.

1. **Mt. Pleasant** had the chlorination process completed on September 19th and was retested for the Legionella bacteria on Monday, September 24th. The results from the retesting will take approximately 7-10 days.
2. **St. Cloud** had the chlorination process completed on September 22nd and will be retested on Thursday, September 27th. The results from the retesting will take approximately 7-10 days.
3. **Hazel** will have the chlorination process completed on September 28th and 29th. Retesting will be done approximately four days after the chlorination process. The results from the retesting will take approximately 7-10 days.
4. **Gregory, Washington and the Administration Building will have the** chlorination process completed on October 5th and 6th, October 12th and 13th or October 19th and 20th. Retesting will be done approximately four days after the chlorination process. The results from the retesting will take approximately 7-10 days for each building.
5. **Edison and Roosevelt** will have the chlorination process completed on October 26th and 27th or November 2nd and 3rd. **West Orange High School** will be completed on November 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th. Retesting will be done approximately four days after the chlorination process. The results from the retesting will take approximately 7-10 days for each building.
6. We are still waiting on the results from the **Transportation Building**.

It is important to note that there are no confirmed cases of Legionella in West Orange. We will continue to be diligent in our approach to remediate the water sources that tested positive for Legionella bacteria and proactive in completing the process as quickly as possible.

An update will be provided when the chlorination process is completed and/or when retesting results are available.