



August 30, 2018

Dear CMS families and staff,

Students' health and safety is our top priority. As part of this commitment, CMS is continuing voluntary testing all sources of water in schools intended for drinking, food preparation or cooking including water fountains, faucets and spigots and other fixtures.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools plans to begin the second round of water quality testing on Sept. 24 and for this testing to be completed by Nov. 9. The second round of testing will include 17 high schools, 15 middle schools and three administrative sites, all built before 1989 – see full list of schools below. Adjustments may be made to the timeline as the process moves forward to ensure the best work possible.

We do not expect to find significant water quality issues in this second round of testing, but we'd rather be safe than sorry. This is a proactive measure intended to ensure our students' and staff members' well-being at school.

Communicating with you on water quality

The district will bolster communications related to the water quality program to ensure families, staff and the public are informed.

- Before actual testing begins, CMS will send additional letters to families of students at the schools to be tested, informing them of the exact testing schedule in their schools.
- As results are available and any actions taken, subsequent letters will include expert data, analysis and descriptions in plain language of any actions taken and in what locations within each school.
- To further increase access to this information, all letters, reports and results (when complete) will be shared on the district's social media and on the [CMS Water Quality Web Page](#).
- The district will also reach out to media as this information is updated.

To ensure that you are fully informed as this water quality program moves forward, below is the media release being shared today, which includes the schools in Round 2.



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Aug. 30, 2018

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools continues proactive water testing Middle and high schools built before 1989 are focus of second round

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Aug. 29, 2018 — Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools announced the second phase of voluntary water testing, planned to begin Sept. 24 and to be completed by Nov. 9. The second round of testing will include 17 high schools, 15 middle schools and three administrative sites, all built before 1989. The district said that adjustments to the schedule may be made as the process moves forward.

“This water quality effort is about being better safe than sorry because student and staff safety and well-being are top priorities,” Dr. Clayton Wilcox, superintendent, said. “That is why we are continuing this voluntary water testing program in our schools. We’re starting with our schools built before 1989 because the EPA recommends this priority due to the age of buildings, plumbing and fixtures in them. As in the first round, we will continue to take action to keep water in schools safe.”

Increased Communications

The district will bolster communications related to the water quality program to ensure families, staff and the public are informed. Additional efforts will include letters to families, a dedicated web page and social media.

Before testing begins, CMS will send letters to families of students at the schools to be tested, informing them of the testing schedule. As results are available and any actions taken, subsequent letters will include expert data, analysis and descriptions in plain language of any actions taken and in what locations within each school.

To further increase access to this information, all letters, reports and results (when complete) will be shared on the district’s water-quality web page, which also includes a list of schools scheduled for testing (list also below).

Retained Third-Party Experts

The district has engaged AECOM, a certified independent environmental consulting firm, to conduct the second round of testing at 35 district sites. AECOM, a Charlotte-based firm, has already conducted water testing at 58 elementary schools at the district’s request. These first round results are available on the CMS Water Quality page. The cost of the second round of testing is estimated at \$237,000.



Results from Round 1

The initial round of testing was conducted by AECOM at 58 older elementary schools. No water quality issues were identified that affected an entire school. However, at 27 schools, the tests showed contaminants in the range identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as “alert levels” in some fixtures. All necessary repairs, replacements or removals have been made to specific fixtures such as faucets, spigots and water bubblers. Many of the fixtures with levels above EPA alert limits had been unused for long periods of time or were in areas inaccessible to students.

Experts available for review

Experts remain available to answer questions from any parent or staff member about results in their school by e-mailing ehs@cms.k12.nc.us.

CMS Schools to be Tested in Water Quality Program Round 2

Albemarle Road MS	Northeast MS
Alexander Graham MS	Northwest School of the Arts
Atrium (Education Center - CMS Main Admin Bldg)	Olympic HS
Bishop Spaugh	Performance Learning Center (Derita ES)
Carmel MS	Piedmont Open MS
Cochrane (iMeck Academy)	Providence HS
Coulwood STEM Academy	Quail Hollow MS
East Mecklenburg HS	Randolph MS
Eastway MS	Ranson MS
Garinger HS	Sedgefield MS
Harding University HS	Smith Family Center
Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences	South Mecklenburg HS
Independence HS	Villa Heights ES
JT Williams Montessori	West Charlotte HS
Kennedy MS	West Charlotte Project LIFT Academy (Graham Center)
Leadership Academy HS	West Mecklenburg HS
Myers Park HS	Wilson STEM Academy
North Mecklenburg HS	