



**WILLIAM J. GRETZULA, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

**PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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December 2, 2018

Dear Members of the Pennsbury School District Community,

**This correspondence serves as notice that Pennsbury School District will open and operate under a normal schedule on Monday, December 3, 2018.**

Thank you for your patience and understanding while our District administrative and supervisory teams have worked carefully and closely over the past 60 hours with representatives of the PA American Water Company, along with several of our community leaders, to address concerns over the quality of water provided to a large population of our community members.

Members of our administrative team became aware of an emergency alert from the PA American Water Company on the evening of Thursday, November 29, 2018. The issue was beyond the control of District employees. As we sought assured information pertaining to the issue, there was great uncertainty as to the cause of the concern. In the absence of that, and with the need for proper caution for the occupants of the 8 schools serviced by PA American Water, all schools were closed on Friday, November 30, 2018. The Pennsbury schools located in the areas serviced by PA American Water include:

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>
Afton ES	Charles Boehm MS
Edgewood ES	Pennwood MS
Eleanor Roosevelt ES	William Penn MS
Makefield ES	
Quarry Hill ES	

Since Friday morning, collaborative efforts have included ongoing internal communication and daily conference calls with representatives of the water company and local leaders. This morning, our community also received the update on page 3 of this correspondence. It states that the “mechanical control issues at the water treatment plant” have been identified and are being addressed.

While the community waits for two consecutive days of sampling with no signs of bacteria, the “boil water advisory” remains in place; however, to accommodate the opening of schools this week, we have graciously received pallets of bottled water provided by PA American Water.

- Each school within the areas served by PA American Water will have a pallet of water delivered on Sunday, December 2, 2018.
- It will be available for students and staff.
- Each pallet contains approximately 1,500 bottles of water.
- School administration is asked to develop a plan for equitable distribution and availability of bottled water for their respective locations.
- PA American Water has stated they will provide additional pallets if the advisory is prolonged.

**MISSION**

*Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.*

A member of our administrative team and our food service provider, The Nutrition Group, have also been in communication with representatives from the Bucks County Department of Health pertaining to hand washing and plans to provide breakfast and lunches for students and staff this week. Dr. David Damsker, the Director of the Bucks County Health Department, provided his support for opening schools under certain conditions described below.

Hand Washing

- Students and staff can wash hands in affected schools as long as they use hand sanitizer afterward. The District is working to provide this in various locations throughout these schools.
- When asked about students washing their hands, especially our youngest members, Dr. Damsker reassured us that splashing/rinsing water is not a likely exposure point. Ingesting, or drinking, the water is the biggest exposure risk.
- Dr. Damsker’s student/staff hand washing advice:
  - Use soap
  - Use a paper towel
  - Use hand sanitizer

Food Services

- The Nutrition Group staff can wash pans in affected schools using the three-sink chemical sanitization process that they typically use.
- The Nutrition Group staff does not have to avoid steaming vegetables because, in essence, that water has been boiled. The same guidance was provided in reference to boiling water for pasta.
- Based on the information above, The Nutrition Group leadership believes there are several typical menu options that they will be able to serve under a “modified lunch menu.”
- If ice is required, staff is directed to throw out any affected ice, sanitize the ice storage unit and then place any purchased “safe” ice inside.

Once again, I thank you for your patience and understanding while our District administrative and supervisory teams continue to work carefully and closely with representatives of the PA American Water Company and our local leaders to ensure all students, staff and visitors to Pennsbury schools enter safe environments for teaching and learning.

Respectfully,



Dr. William J. Gretzula  
Superintendent

## **UPDATE FROM PA AMERICAN WATER FOR YARDLEY, LOWER MAKEFIELD TWP., AND FALLS TWP. CUSTOMERS**

December 2, 2018 at 7:40 a.m.

**YARDLEY, LOWER MAKEFIELD TWP., FALLS TWP. UPDATE:** Our team made progress yesterday and overnight making repairs to mechanical control issues at the water treatment plant that caused the increased turbidity level on Thursday, Nov. 29. We are in the process of stabilizing the treatment plant. In addition, we will consult today with the Department of Environmental Protection to begin the process of conducting water sampling throughout the distribution system, which is required before the boil water advisory can be lifted. DEP regulations require two consecutive days of sampling results with no signs of bacteria in order to lift the advisory. In the meantime, the boil water advisory remains in effect for all Pennsylvania American Water customers in Yardley, Lower Makefield Township, and portions of Falls Township.

Our team has also successfully maintained adequate water supplies to meet customer demand, and the water produced has met all regulatory standards. Pennsylvania American Water's team of water quality, engineering and operations experts will continue to work around the clock until the issues are completely resolved and the boil advisory is lifted. Water tankers are available for customers between 6 am to 10 pm at the following locations.

- Yardley Makefield Fire Companies 105 South Main Street Yardley and 652 Stony Hill Road, Lower Makefield Twp.
- Big Oak Shopping Center 1641 Big Oak Road
- Village Market 599 Washington Crossing Road, Lower Makefield Twp.
- Gas Light Village 85 Makefield Road, Falls Twp.

Customers are asked to provide their own containers when visiting a tanker for drinking water. More information on boil advisories can be found at this link: <https://amwater.com/paaw/water-quality/what-is-a-boil-water-advisory>

We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate our customers' patience during this event.

Melanie R. Horvath  
Director, Government Affairs  
Pennsylvania American Water