

On behalf of Kanawha County Schools and the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department:

Kanawha County Schools and Health Department
Analyzing Bottled Water Concerns

CHARLESTON, W.Va.- The Kanawha- Charleston Health Department (KCHD) and Kanawha County Schools are working to address bottled water issues at schools including Sharon Dawes Elementary, John Adams Middle School and Andrew Jackson Middle School.

Health Officer Dr. Rahul Gupta immediately ordered a complete embargo of a specific lot of FEMA bottled water being used at those schools. KCHD sanitarians received complaints that the bottled water had a musty odor. When sanitarians investigated, they confirmed the strong odor as well as a problem with the taste of the water.

“A strong odor or bad taste does not necessarily indicate the water is a health hazard,” Gupta said. He noted the testing is being performed as a standard procedure.

The issue is believed to be limited to Ice Mountain brand delivered to the schools. Until testing can be completed by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Kanawha County Schools has notified all schools not use this particular brand of water. In addition, other lots of Ice Mountain water housed in the Kanawha County School Warehouse have been taken out of circulation.

Currently, Kanawha County School has a sufficient bottled water supply from other companies in its warehouse.

Test results on the Ice Mountain bottled water will be made public as soon as they are available.