

Marsden Park Public School

Works notification | 19 February 2026

Dear staff, parents, carers and neighbours,

We want to inform you that recent routine environmental testing by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW DPHI) has detected the presence of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in various locations across Marsden Park Public School.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been widely used in foams for firefighting, industrial and consumer products, such as furniture, food containers, make up, shampoo, carpets and non-stick cookware since the 1940s.

What we know

Soil sampling and testing conducted by NSW DPHI in January 2026 found above screening levels of PFAS in outdoor areas across the school.

Screening levels in environmental legislation are deliberately set low to trigger investigations early – especially at primary schools. Exceeding these levels means that we need to complete more testing, not that there's an elevated health risk.

The independent environmental scientist has provided context based on their experience with other school settings that presented similar results. Using this expert advice and the preliminary results, we have determined that the school should remain open until further investigations are undertaken.

What happens next

We will conduct further investigations at Marsden Park Public School and work closely with the independent environmental scientist to determine whether any work is required at the school, as not every detection requires remediation. Investigations might involve soil testing with drills or other equipment. We will schedule these to minimise disruption to school activities. Findings are expected by the end of next month.

As a proactive safety measure, we are installing fencing in outdoor areas of the school that returned above screening levels of PFAS.

While we determine what happens next, the management of PFAS at the school will occur in accordance with the recommendations of independent experts, work health and safety laws, and NSW Health guidance.

NSW Health advice

Information from NSW Health explains:

- People are exposed to PFAS mainly by ingesting consuming it (by mouth). Examples include drinking contaminated water and eating contaminated food (for example including food



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stored in packaging with PFAS). People can also transfer it to their mouth if their hands have touched products or dust containing PFAS.

- It is rare to be exposed to PFAS through the air and through skin.
- Based on the substantial research already undertaken, the health effects of PFAS appear to be small.
- Studies of communities who know they have been exposed to PFAS in the environment have not found higher rates of any particular illnesses such as cancer or heart disease.

More information

You can visit the [NSW Health website](#) for more information and advice regarding PFAS.

If you would like further information on PFAS, visit the [NSW Environment Protection Authority \(EPA\) website](#). You can also contact the NSW EPA on 131 555 if you have questions.

If you are concerned about your health because of PFAS, please speak to your GP. If your GP has concerns or questions, they should speak to the local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.


We will continue to provide you with updates as more information becomes available.

If you have questions about this work, please contact the NSW Department of Education on the details below.


The health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our school and the local community are our highest priorities.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.


Translation and Interpreting Service



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131 450，请他们打电话 1300 482 651
给教育部学校基础设施处。



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