



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES
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TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

November 18, 2019

Jamie Plenkovich
Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Custer Elementary
7660 Custer School Rd
Custer, Washington 98240

Dear Jamie Plenkovich:

Thank you for helping us implement the governor's directive on lead and improve the health and safety of children in Washington.

On October 30, 2019, water samples were collected from fifty three drinking water fixtures at Custer Elementary and tested for lead. Three fixtures had lead levels that exceeded twenty parts per billion (ppb). The test results from your school are attached.

Children are exposed to lead from a variety of sources in their environments. Exposure sources include dust from old, deteriorating lead paint, contaminated soil, take-home exposures from parents who work in certain industries, and many others. Each of these sources contributes to the amount of lead in the bodies of children.

It is important to reduce exposure from every source as much as possible. The attached recommendations can help you decide on actions to take to reduce the amount of lead in your school's drinking water. Please review these recommendations and take immediate actions for fixtures that have high lead levels.

What to do next:

1. **Communicate** with staff, students, parents and the community about water test results and any actions you are taking in response. Please note: we will post results on the DOH website, no sooner than one month from the date of this letter.
 - We have included a template letter that can be customized to communicate to parents and your school community.
 - We suggest making the results available on your district website and through your office.
2. **Address** the sources of lead in the drinking water at your school. To assist you we have included the "Guidelines for Responding to Lead Test Results" matrix and a list of recommended actions. *There are resources in the capital facilities budget set aside for remediation. Please contact Justin Rogers with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at 360-725-6261 or email at Justin.rogers@k12.wa.us for further information.*
3. **Notify** us if your school district cannot immediately address issues identified by these results. Please describe interim measures that will be taken to reduce exposure to lead from those fixtures which had

elevated lead results and any plans for remediation. This information should also be provided to staff and your community.

How were the samples taken and analyzed?

Cold water samples were collected from every tap used by students for drinking or used to prepare food for students. These were "first draw" samples, in which the water is allowed to sit in the plumbing system for eight to eighteen hours before the sample is collected. Samples were analyzed by our Public Health Laboratory using EPA method 200.8.

If you have questions regarding test results, or need additional information please contact me at 360.236.3248, or e-mail at annemarie.charles@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Anne Marie Charles
School Lead in Drinking Water Coordinator

Recommended Actions

These actions will help you reduce lead in your drinking water. If you need further technical assistance please contact DOH.

- For each fixture with lead results equal to or over 20 ppb, we recommend that you:
 - Take the fixture out of service or make it inaccessible to students and staff.
 - Take flush samples to determine where the lead is coming from (the fixture or plumbing system).
 - Replace fixtures with certified lead-free fixtures or remove the fixtures permanently if they are not needed. You can provide bottled water to students and staff on an interim basis while you are replacing fixtures if necessary.
 - If you plan to replace fixtures, contact DOH to discuss the steps you can take to ensure the water is safe to drink before returning it to use.

- For each fixture with lead results between 10 and 19 ppb we recommend that you choose one or more of the following:
 - Replace fixtures with certified lead-free fixtures or remove the fixtures permanently if they are not needed. You can provide bottled water to students and staff on an interim basis while you are replacing fixtures if necessary.
 - Implement a flushing program to help reduce lead levels that may increase while fixtures are not in use.
 - Clean aerators regularly to remove particulates that may contain lead.
 - Install a National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified filter to remove lead and replace it as recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Permanently convert these fixtures to hand wash only stations. An example of a hand wash only graphic is available [here](#).
 - Remove the fixture permanently.
 - If you plan to replace fixtures, contact DOH to discuss the steps you can take to ensure the water is safe to drink before returning it to use.

- For each fixture with lead results between 2 and 9 ppb we recommend that you:
 - Implement a flushing program to help reduce lead levels that may increase while fixtures are not in use.
 - Clean aerators regularly to remove particulates that may contain lead.



Name of Sampler: Lisa Christensen
 Date Collected: 10/30/2019
 School Name: Custer Elementary
 School Code: 4482
 School District: Ferndale
 School Address: 7660 Custer School Rd, Custer WA 98240
 School County: Whatcom
 Number of Samples Collected: 53
 School Point of Contact (POC): Jamie Plenkovich
 POC Title: Director of Facilities and Maintenance
 POC Email: plenkovich@ferndalesd.org
 POC Phone Number: (360) 383-9234
 Date Samples Sent to Lab: 10/30/2019
 Date Samples Received by Lab: 10/31/2019
 Shipment Tracking Number: Hand Delivered

Program ID	Sample Type	Description	Location	Lead Results (ppb)	Analysis Date	Comments
27701	other	other		<1	11/12/2019	6:48 AM, 04141
27702	FirstDraw	Tap	Kitchen	7	11/12/2019	Food Prep or Eyewash Sink
27703	FirstDraw	Tap	Kitchen, 2-Tub Sink	12	11/12/2019	Left Tap
27704	FirstDraw	Tap	Staff Lounge	11	11/12/2019	
27705	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Across from Kitchen, Water Station	<1	11/12/2019	
27706	FirstDraw	BottleFiller	Across from Kitchen, Water Station	<1	11/12/2019	
27707	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 14	6	11/12/2019	
27708	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 14	3	11/12/2019	
27709	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 15	4	11/12/2019	
27710	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 15	11	11/12/2019	
27711	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 16	10	11/12/2019	

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Program ID	Sample Type	Description	Location	Lead Results (ppb)	Analysis Date	Comments
27712	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 16	4	11/12/2019	
27713	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 17	7	11/12/2019	
27714	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 17	10	11/12/2019	
27715	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 18	10	11/12/2019	Some calci- fication and rust on bubbler
27716	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 18	3	11/12/2019	
27717	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 19	8	11/12/2019	
27718	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 19	2	11/12/2019	
27719	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 20	1	11/12/2019	Mineral deposits on bubbler
27720	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 20	1	11/12/2019	
27721	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 21	1	11/12/2019	
27722	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 21	1	11/12/2019	
27723	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 22	<1	11/12/2019	Mineral deposits on bubbler
27724	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 22	<1	11/12/2019	
27725	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 13	<1	11/12/2019	The metal is worn down
27726	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 13	1	11/12/2019	
27727	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 12	3	11/14/2019	
27728	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 12	2	11/14/2019	
27729	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 11	3	11/14/2019	
27730	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 11	2	11/14/2019	
27731	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Library Office	<1	11/14/2019	
27732	FirstDraw	Tap	Library Office	<1	11/14/2019	
27733	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 10, Conference Room	<1	11/14/2019	
27734	FirstDraw	Tap	Health Room	4	11/14/2019	Bubbler non- functioning

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Program ID	Sample Type	Description	Location	Lead Results (ppb)	Analysis Date	Comments
27735	First Draw	Bubbler	Main Office Workroom	18	11/14/2019	
27736	First Draw	Tap	Main Office Workroom	2	11/14/2019	Mineral deposits under aerator
27737	First Draw	Bubbler	Across from Main Office	2	11/14/2019	
27738	First Draw	Bubbler	Room 9	9	11/14/2019	
27739	First Draw	Tap	Room 9	4	11/14/2019	
27740	First Draw	Tap	Room 8	9	11/14/2019	Only sink in room
27741	First Draw	Tap	Room 7	12	11/14/2019	Discolored water
27742	First Draw	Bubbler	Room 4	34	11/14/2019	
27743	First Draw	Tap	Room 4	12	11/14/2019	
27744	First Draw	Tap	Room 3	14	11/14/2019	
27745	First Draw	Bubbler	Room 1	13	11/14/2019	
27746	First Draw	Tap	Room 1	9	11/14/2019	
27747	First Draw	Bubbler	Room 2	21	11/14/2019	
27748	First Draw	Tap	Room 2	3	11/14/2019	No aerator
27749	First Draw	Bubbler	Room 5	<1	11/14/2019	
27750	First Draw	Tap	Room 5	<1	11/14/2019	
27751	First Draw	Bubbler	Outside Room 6	<1	11/12/2019	
27752	First Draw	Bottle Filler	Outside Room 6	<1	11/12/2019	
27753	First Draw	Tap	Room 6	27	11/14/2019	Back Room, mineral deposits under aerator