STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES
243 Israel Road SE • PO Box 47825 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7825
TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

October 04, 2019

Jamie Plenkovich
Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Discovery Center (Mt View Campus)
5780 Hendrickson Road
Ferndale, Washington 98248

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 02, 2019, water samples were collected from twenty eight drinking water fixtures at Discovery Center (Mt View Campus) and tested for lead. Five 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.

Sample Message to Parents and Community - Lead Detected Greater Than or Equal to 20 ppb

DATE

Dear Peacefultown School Community:

In 2017, the Legislature directed the Washington State Department of Health to test for lead in drinking water in public schools in an effort to reduce children's overall exposure to lead in the environment. As part of our commitment to ensuring the health of our students and staff is protected, we recently participated in this program.

What did we learn?
On **DATE**, DOH staff sampled **NUMBER** of fixtures at **NAME OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**. This represents every fixture that provides drinking water to students or is used to prepare food. The testing was done prior to the school day before students were in the building.

Results show that **NUMBER** water samples at **NAME OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** had lead levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb).

What are we doing?
Explain actions taken. The following are example statements:

- Immediately after being notified of the results, we took each fixture out of service.
- We are providing bottled water to students and staff.
- We are working closely with DOH to develop a permanent remediation plan.

Why is lead a problem? 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 contribute to the amount of lead in the bodies of children.

It is important to reduce exposure from every source as much as possible. Children six years old and younger are the most susceptible to the effects of lead. Their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. Even at very low levels of exposure to lead, children may experience effects including lower IQ levels, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, poor classroom performance, or other harmful physical and behavioral effects.

How can I learn more?
Water testing results are available at the district office and on our website www.peacefultownschools.k12.us. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact **NAME** at **NUMBER**. If you are concerned that your child has been exposed to lead for any reason ask your healthcare provider about having them screened for lead.

Sincerely,

(John Jacobs)
Superintendent Schools

News Release for Lead Detected Greater Than or Equal to 20 ppb

For immediate release: Date
Contact: District contact name, phone number

Lead Found in Drinking Water at Peacefultown School

PEACEFULTOWN - Results from recent drinking water tests at **NAME OF SCHOOL** found lead present in **NUMBER** fixtures. **SENTENCE ABOUT ACTION TAKEN.**

On **DATE** health officials from the Washington State Department of Health sampled **NUMBER** of fixtures at **NAME OF SCHOOL.** This represents every fixture that provides drinking water to students or is used to prepare food. The water samples showed NUMBER fixtures with lead levels above 20 parts per billion.

"Our students' health and safety is our top priority. When we had the opportunity for the state to test our school's water we were happy to participate," said **SUPERINTENDANT NAME**.

Optional Statement

The District with working closely with the Department of Health on permanent remediation activities. In the meantime, fixtures that exceed 20 parts per billion lead have been taken out of service and bottled water is being provided to students and staff until permanent remediation actions are completed.

Parents concerned about their child's lead exposure for any reason should ask their healthcare provider about lead screening.

In 2017, the Legislature directed DOH to test for lead in drinking water in public schools in an effort to reduce children's overall exposure to lead in the environment. The water testing followed federal and state guidelines for sample collection and testing.

Information about the lead testing program, including laboratory results, can be found at the district office Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Washington State Department of Health

Name of Sampler: Lisa Christensen
Date Collected: 10/02/2019
School Name: Discovery Center (Mt View Campus)
School Code: NA
School District: Ferndale
School Address: 5780 Hendrickson Road, Ferndale WA 98248
School County: Whatcom
Number of Samples Collected: 28
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: 10/02/2019
Date Samples Received by Lab: 10/03/2019
Shipment Tracking Number: Hand Delivered

Program ID	Sample Type	Description	Location	Lead Results (ppb)	Analysis Date	Comments
25888	other	other		<1	10/03/2019	7:14 AM, 10882
25889	FirstDraw	Tap	Mr. Bob's Room	1	10/03/2019	used this morning
25890	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 3	9	10/03/2019	
25891	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 3	2	10/03/2019	
25892	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Between Restrooms across from Room 3	2	10/03/2019	
25893	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 4	7	10/04/2019	
25894	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 4	2	10/03/2019	
25895	FirstDraw	Tap	Health Room	2	10/04/2019	
25896	FirstDraw	Tap	Staff Lounge	<1	10/04/2019	
25897	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 6	10	10/04/2019	bubbler off, tap may not be in use
25898	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 8	15	10/04/2019	
25899	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 8	11	10/04/2019	dripping
25900	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 7	16	10/04/2019	

(continued)

Program ID	Sample Type	Description	Location	Lead Results (ppb)	Analysis Date	Comments
26337	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 7	9	10/04/2019	
26338	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 10	8	10/04/2019	
26339	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 10	3	10/04/2019	
26340	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 12	5	10/04/2019	
26341	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 12	1	10/04/2019	
26342	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 11	12	10/04/2019	
26343	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 11	3	10/04/2019	
26344	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room 9	8	10/04/2019	
26345	FirstDraw	Tap	Room 9	2	10/04/2019	
26346	FirstDraw	Tap	Kitchen	30	10/04/2019	
26347	FirstDraw	Tap	Library Conference Room	6	10/04/2019	
26348	FirstDraw	Tap	Room G	237	10/04/2019	bubbler turned off
26349	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Room F	72	10/04/2019	Mineral deposits on bubbler
26350	FirstDraw	Tap	Room F	31	10/04/2019	
26351	FirstDraw	Bubbler	Left Bubbler Near Restrooms	53	10/04/2019	Right bubbler turned off