



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES
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February 23, 2018

Jamie Plenkovich
Director of Maintenance and Facilities
Central Elementary School
5610 2nd Ave
Ferndale, WA 98284

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 **February 7th, 2018**, water samples were collected from **38** drinking water fixtures at **Central Elementary School** and tested for lead. **One** fixture had lead in amounts above the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb). This means that children should not drink from these fixtures. 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. There were **26** fixtures in your school that were below the EPA action level, but still had measurable amounts of lead. The attached recommendations can help you reduce the amount of lead in your school's drinking water as much as possible.

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.
 - a. We have included a template letter that can be customized to communicate to parents and your school community.
 - b. 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 Nancy Johns with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at 360-725-4973 or email at nancy.johns@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 provide safe drinking water 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 8 to 18 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,



Rad Cunningham
Senior Epidemiologist, Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences

Recommended Actions:

In order to assist you we are including the information below to help you reduce lead in your drinking water. If you need further technical assistance please contact DOH.

For each fixture with lead results over the 20 ppb EPA action level for schools, 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.

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.