



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

November 8, 2018

Ms. Liliana Cardenas  
Director of Maintenance and Operations  
Thorndyke Elementary  
4415 S 150th St  
Tukwila Washington 98168

Dear Ms. Cardenas:

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

On **October 22, 2018**, water samples were collected from **seventy** drinking water fixtures at **Thorndyke Elementary** and tested for lead. **No** fixture had lead in amounts that were equal to or above the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb). The test results from your school are attached.

You will notice in your report that some samples say "TB" for turbidity. These samples tested greater than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU), which means they require further digestion before they can be analyzed for lead. We will forward the result to you as soon as they are available.

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 **nine** 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.

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- 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 Justin Rodgers with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at 360-725-6261 or email at [Justin.rodgers@k12.wa.us](mailto:Justin.rodgers@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](mailto:annemarie.charles@doh.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Anne Marie Charles  
School Lead in Drinking Water Coordinator

**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 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.