



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service

May 28, 2026

Superintendent Clifford,

In April 2026 the Washington State Department of Health initial sampled to test drinking water for the potential of lead contamination at South Whidbey High School/Middle School Campus. Sampling and testing were done in accordance with [Chapter 28A.210.410 RCW](#).

NEXT STEPS

1. **Review** the test results (see email attachments). Depending on the lead parts per billion (ppb), you may need to remediate some of the fixtures in your schools. Fixture test results:
 - 5 ppb or less do not require any action;
 - greater than 5 ppb **require remediation**;
 - greater than 15 ppb, **must be turned off immediately** until all remediation and post-remediation steps are complete.

[Chapter 28A.210.410 RCW](#) does not require remediation for fixtures testing at 5 ppb and under. DOH offers post-remediation testing only for outlets that initially tested above 5 ppb. After a school completes remediation, DOH will provide up to two post-remediation sampling visits. If after the second post-remediation sampling, outlets test above 5 ppb, the district will be responsible for finding a contractor to conduct additional sampling and testing. For questions regarding sampling, testing, and results, please email: leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov.

2. **Create** an action plan following the [WA DOH Action Plan Requirements](#) and [school action plan template](#). The action plan needs to include next steps to remediate if any remediation is required. [Chapter 28A.210.410 RCW](#) requires schools to create an action plan that meets the technical guidance found in the [DOH Lead in Schools Technical Guidance](#) and is done in consultation with local or state health department. The plan must be shared with your school community.
3. **Communicate** with staff, students, parents, and the school community. Include the test results and the actions you are taking in response. [Chapter 28A.210.410 RCW](#) requires schools to communicate the most recent test results and the action plan.

RESOURCES

Information about the health effects of lead can be found on the [WA State Department of Health | Lead](#) webpage.

- Additional trusted resources include: [EPA](#) and [CDC](#) websites.
- **Remediation funding** is available through the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). For more information, please contact Morgan Powell, OSPI, at: morgan.powell@k12.wa.us.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How samples were taken and analyzed

Cold water samples were collected from every fixture at the school used by students for drinking or used to prepare food for students. These were first draw sample collections. First draw sample collection is where the water is allowed to sit in the plumbing system for 8 to 18 hours prior to the sample being collected. Samples were analyzed by our DOH Public Health Laboratory using [EPA method 200.8](#).

Concerns about lead exposure in our children

Children are especially susceptible to lead exposure, particularly those younger than age six. Their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults and are more sensitive to its damaging effects. Even from very low levels of exposure to lead, children may experience lower IQ levels, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, or other harmful health effects that can impact learning, development, and behavior.

Children can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources in their environment, such as lead-based paint and its resulting dust from deterioration, drinking water, contaminated soil, and take-home exposure from parents who work in certain industries. Since each source contributes to children's overall lead exposure, it's important to reduce their exposure from every source as much as possible.

If parents are concerned about their child's health, they should ask their health care provider for a blood lead test. A blood lead test is the only way to know if a child has high blood lead levels. While drinking water is typically not a main cause of high lead levels in children, it is important to prevent exposure from all potential lead sources. DOH testing programs at schools and childcare facilities help to reduce lead exposure by identifying and repairing water fixtures that test high for lead.

You can learn more about lead exposure as well as how to prevent lead exposure [here](#) on DOH's website. For additional information, contact DOH at leadfreakids@doh.wa.gov.

Best,

Terri Veazey she/her

Lead in School Drinking Water Program Coordinator

Division of Environmental Public Health

Washington State Department of Health

leadfreakids@doh.wa.gov

360.870.6982 | www.doh.wa.gov