



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*

March 23, 2023

Dear Superintendent Harlow,

On January 31, February 21 and 24, and March 4, 2023, the Department of Health (DOH) tested the drinking water for potential lead contamination at:

- Mattawa Elementary School
- Morris Schott Elementary School
- Wahluke Jr High School
- Wahluke High School

Sampling and testing were done in accordance with [RCW 28A.210.410](#).

#### NEXT STEPS

1. **Review** the test results (see attached documents in email). Depending on the lead parts per billion (ppb) results, 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 remediation is complete.
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. [RCW 28A.210.410](#) 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 the 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. [RCW 28A.210.410](#) requires schools to communicate:
  - the most recent test results;
  - the action plan.

#### RESOURCES

- Information about the health effects of lead can be found on the [DOH website](#).
- 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](mailto:morgan.powell@k12.wa.us).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **How the 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](#).

Children are especially susceptible to lead exposure. 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.

### **Concerns about lead exposure in our children**

Children are exposed to lead from a variety of sources in their environment – drinking water, dust from deteriorating lead paint, contaminated soil, take-home exposures from parents who work in certain industries, to name a few. Since each source contributes to children’s overall lead exposure, it’s important to reduce their exposure from every source as much as possible.

You can learn more about lead exposure as well as how to prevent lead exposure [here](#) on DOH’s website. If you would like additional information, please contact DOH at [leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov](mailto:leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov).

### **Terri Veazey**

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Lead in School Drinking Water Program Coordinator

Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences

Washington State Department of Health

[leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov](mailto:leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov)

360.870.6982 | [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)