

Message to Parents and Community

Lead detected exceeding 5 parts per billion (ppb)

4/20/2023

Dear parents of North Franklin School District:

As of 2021, Washington state law (RCW 28A.210.410 and 43.70.830) requires school drinking water is tested for lead in all K-12 public schools. Recently the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) sampled and tested the drinking water in **Connell High School**.

What We've Learned

On **3/10/2023**, DOH staff sampled **32** fixtures at **Connell High School**. This number of fixtures 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 entered the building. Results show **3** water samples at **Connell High School** had lead levels exceeding 5 parts per billion (ppb).

What We're Doing

- Immediately after being notified of the results, we took each fixture out of service.
- We are working closely with DOH to develop a remediation plan.

Why Lead is a Concern

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 other sources. Each of these contribute to the amount of lead in the bodies of children.

It's 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.

Where to Learn More

Water testing results are available at the district office and on our website **www.nfsd.org**. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Kelly Gregg, Director of Facilities and Capital, at 509-234-6441. 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,

Jim Jacobs

Superintendent

North Franklin School District