



Blaine School District

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To: Blaine School District Parents and Patrons
From: Superintendent Ron Spanjer
Date: April 11, 2018
Re: Lead Testing Results

In the Spring of 2016, school districts in the State of Washington experienced an increased level of concern specific to the potential for higher than acceptable levels of lead in drinking water. These concerns surfaced when a small number of schools in our State were found to have elevated lead levels, some significantly. Subsequently, while not mandated, numerous school districts, including Blaine, moved forward with some level of testing for lead content.

Later in the Spring of 2016, in the Blaine School District, random testing was completed, with an emphasis on the starting and ending points of water lines, drinking fountains and kitchen sources. At that time, all samples collected were found to be well below the EPA threshold (upper limit) of 20ppb (parts per billion).

This year, the Washington State Department of Health offered to assist school districts in the State of Washington with a more extensive level of testing, ultimately seeking to provide analysis of a more extensive number of fixtures.

Student and staff health and safety is Blaine School District's top priority. In mid-March, the Washington State Department of Health collected samples from a total of 65 water fixtures in Blaine Elementary School, including sink faucets, sink bubbler fountains, and drinking fountains. Over Spring Break, we received a summary of the results and learned that 2 of the 65 samples, both from sink faucets, were at or above the EPA threshold. One faucet sample was found to be at the threshold of 20ppb, and the other faucet was just over the threshold at 23ppb. As per State Health Department Guidelines, these two sink faucets were immediately shut off, and will be replaced over the next few days.

In addition, there were 10 sink faucets (not bubbler fountains) with lead content levels in the range of 10-19ppb. While these are below the EPA threshold, these faucets will also be replaced over the next two weeks.

At this time, we are in consultation with the Washington State Health Department with respect to continued testing, of a more extensive nature (all fixtures), in our other school buildings. As would be expected, there is a fairly extensive backlog on the Health Department's calendar. If the Health Department is not able to conduct these water draws and resulting assessments over the next 6-8 weeks, the Blaine School District will proceed with independent testing, following prescribed guidelines, with the actual analysis then taking place in a certified lab setting. It should be noted that, in a much smaller setting at Point Roberts Primary School (8 fixtures), the District recently drew independent samples which were analyzed in a certified lab setting and resulted in determination of extremely low (<1ppb) levels of lead in the water.

Results of the Health Department's recent testing at Blaine Elementary School are available upon request at the Blaine School District Office. Parents are invited to learn more about lead in drinking water by visiting the [Washington State Health Department's website](#).

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