

WATER TESTING

Although testing for lead is not currently required in Washington State public schools due to lack of funding, the Port Townsend School District has decided to periodically test samples from various locations. This decision reflects the district's deep commitment to the health and wellness of all its students, employees and patrons.

Guidance on testing from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is found on their public website. The EPA's recommended action level for lead in drinking water is 20 parts per billion (ppb). This is equivalent to micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Washington Department of Health has a lower threshold and indicates schools should address levels exceeding 15 parts per million (ppm). Their specific guidance is that if 10% of the testing shows levels above 15 ppm, that the water should be treated.

Port Townsend School District tested 27 locations in March of 2017, and 27 of 27 resulted in levels that do not exceed the EPA recommendations of 20 ppm. 25 of 27 resulted in levels below the 15 ppm Washington State DOH recommendations. Of the two locations above 15 ppm, one was a hydration station in the high school with results at 16 ppm and the other was a sink in Blue Heron with results at 20 ppm. Although the levels did not exceed federal EPA guidelines, the district follows state DOH guidelines. Both elevated locations were shut off at the valve, tagged as "do not use", and out of use until corrected. Corrections included replacement of surface equipment and retesting. All elevated sites have been corrected and as of June, 2017, all 27 location results are below the Washington State DOH recommended levels.

Also, in October of 2018 water testing was done at our newest school Salish Coast Elementary. On October 17, 2018, water samples were collected from eighty-four drinking water fixtures at Salish coast Elementary and tested for lead. No fixtures had lead in amounts that were equal to or above the EPA action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

For any fixture with lead results between 2 and 9 ppb the district will:

- 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.*

Patrons may request a copy of the test results by emailing Katy Gaffney at kqaffney@ptschools.org.