



12/20/2019

** NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>

Water Quality Testing and Lead - North Thurston Public Schools

You may receive calls from concerned parents and caregivers regarding lead identified in the drinking water at Meadows, Woodland, Chambers Prairie, Pleasant Glade and Seven Oaks Elementary Schools in the North Thurston School District. The district conducted voluntary water quality testing and found elevated lead levels in drinking water. The District has been proactive and has taken the taps and bubblers where elevated levels were identified out of service. The district notified parents, guardians and staff of the results and suggested that they visit the Washington State Department of Health <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/Lead/LeadinSchools> Water web site for more information.

While lead exposure risks from drinking water are low, we want you to be aware of the following information:

- Expect and be prepared for calls from parents and caregivers. Advise them that:
 - The most common source of lead poisoning is from lead-based paint.
 - Samples taken from the water fountains and fixtures most used by students had lead levels below the public health action level of 20 parts per billion.
 - For most people, we do not believe that the levels of lead in the water would raise their blood lead level above the public health action level. However, some people may have special vulnerabilities or other environmental exposures to lead in their homes.

Who Should Have Blood Lead Testing?

The Department of Health recommends testing children for elevated blood lead levels with any of the following risk factors:

- Lives in or regularly visits any house built before 1950.
- Lives in or regularly visits any house built before 1978 with recent or ongoing renovations or remodeling.
- From a low-income family; income <130% of the poverty level. (Federal law mandates screening for all children covered by Medicaid)
- Known to have a sibling or frequent playmate with an elevated blood lead level.
- Is a recent immigrant, refugee, foreign adoptee, or child in foster care.
- Has a parent or principal caregiver who works professionally or recreationally with lead. (Examples: remodeling and demolition; painting; works in or visits gun ranges; mining; battery recycling; makes lead fishing weights or shotgun pellets; hobbies involving stained glass, pottery, soldering, or welding).
- Uses traditional, folk, or ethnic remedies or cosmetics. (Examples: Greta, Azarcon, Ghasard, Ba-baw-san, Sindoor and Kohl).

Healthcare providers should consider testing additional children per clinical judgment, such as:

- Children whose parents have concerns or request testing (including older children that have risk of exposure).
- Children living within a kilometer of an airport or lead emitting industry, or on former orchard land.



12/20/2019

- Children with pica behavior
- Children with neurodevelopmental disabilities or conditions such as autism, ADHD, and learning delays.

If you have parents calling with concerns and decide to test a child:

- Measurement of blood levels with a fingerstick sample is an acceptable alternative to a venous sample.
- Elevated blood lead levels from capillary samples should be confirmed by a venous sample.
- Chelation Therapy is recommended only for blood lead levels of 45 ug per dL or greater.
- Iron supplementation improves blood lead levels in anemic, iron-depleted children.

RESOURCES

Lead Poisoning in Children from the American Academy of Family Physicians:

<http://www.aafp.org/afp/2010/0315/p751.html>

Blood Lead Test Reporting:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsandFacilities/ProfessionalResources/BloodLeadTestingandReporting/BloodLeadTestReporting>

Clinical Algorithm for Targeted Childhood Lead Testing:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/334-382.pdf>

Washington State Department of Health Lead in Drinking Water

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/Lead>

Washington State Department of Health Lead in School Drinking Water Q&A:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-255.pdf>

For more information, contact: Sammy Berg, Thurston County Environmental Health,
 (360) 867-2568, bergs@co.thurston.wa.us

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting Non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 911 and ask staff to locate the Administrator-On-Call.
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344