



Cusick School District #59

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August 31, 2022

Dear Panther Families:

As of 2021, a new 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 **Cusick Junior/Senior High School**. Please be advised that Bess Herian was tested on June 7, 2018 and all 22 samples returned test results of 5 ppb or less. Please visit our website www.cusick.wednet.edu to view these results under Bess Herian Elementary water samples.

What We've Learned

On May 3, 2022 and May 13, 2022, DOH staff sampled a total of 30 fixtures at **Cusick Junior/Senior High School**. This number of fixtures represents faucets that can be turned on and potentially used as a source for drinking water for students or to prepare food. The testing was done prior to the school day before students entered the building. Results show **20** water samples at **Cusick Junior/Senior High School** had lead levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb). These results were e-mailed to us on **July 29, 2022**.

The results of the the 30 tested faucets are as follows:

Ten (10) faucets returned with test results of 5 ppb or less (requires no action).

Five (5) faucets returned with test results between 6 ppb and 14 ppb (requires remediation).

Fifteen (15) faucets returned with test results 15 or greater ppb (requires fixtures to be turned off immediately).

The following is a breakdown of our water sample results taken at Cusick Junior/Senior High School in May 2022:

***All four (4) faucets within our school kitchen where daily meals are prepared came back with test results of 5 ppb or less.**

***Our existing water bottle filling/drinking fountain station (counts as two) in the main building came back with a test result of 5 ppb or less. As did the drinking fountain bubbler located in the shop building.**

***Two (2) drinking fountain bubblers came back with test results exceeding 5 ppb. One (1) had a test result of 7 ppb and one (1) had a result of 8 ppb. Both of these bubblers have been taken out of service. Filtered water bottle filling/drinking fountain stations have been ordered as replacements and will be installed in the coming weeks.**

- *Six (6) of the faucets came back with test results exceeding 5 ppb. These are actually science lab sinks and not used for regular water consumption. However, the potential exists to consume water from them, so they have been removed from service.
- *Eight (8) station sinks in the Home Ec Room came back with test results exceeding 5 ppb. Six (6) returned 15 ppb or greater and two (2) fell between 6 and 14 ppb. All of these stations have been removed from service.
- *Four (4) classroom sinks came back with test results exceeding 5 ppb. Three (3) returned 15 ppb or greater and one (1) returned between 6 and 14 ppb. None of these sinks are used for regular water consumption. However, the potential exists to consume water from them, so they have all been removed from service.
- *The nurse's office sink came back with a test result of 5 ppb or less.
- *The staff room sink came back with a test result of 5 ppb or less.
- *One (1) outside faucet on the football field came back with a test result of 5 ppb or less.

Please visit our website www.cusick.wednet.edu to view these results under Cusick Junior/Senior High water samples.

What are we doing?

- Immediately after being notified of the results, we opted to take all fixtures exceeding 5 ppb out of service. We are currently working on remediating all faucets that came back with test results between 6 and 14 ppb. We will be working with DOH on a plan of action for all fixtures that returned a result 15 ppb or greater. That may include permanently removing certain water fixtures, since many of them are rarely used.
- Two new filtered water bottle filling/drinking fountain stations have been ordered and will be operable in the coming weeks. One will be placed in the gymnasium. One will be placed in the south high school hallway.
- Replacing the faucets, plumbing fixtures and valves in many of the faucets. We have been told that over time, these items can result in elevated lead levels.
- We are working closely with DOH to develop a permanent 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.cusick.wednet.edu.

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Don Hawpe (509) 445-1125 or Jack Biss (509) 680-3581. 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.

Respectfully,



Don Hawpe
Superintendent
Cusick School District

