



June 8, 2018

Re: Lead Testing at Bernice Vossbeck Elementary School

Dear Lynden School District Community:

In 2017, the Legislature directed the Washington State Department of Health to test for lead in drinking water in public schools in an effort to reduce children's overall exposure to lead in the environment. As part of our commitment to ensuring the health of our students and staff is protected, we recently participated in this program.

**What did we learn?**

On April 18, 2018, DOH staff sampled sixty-three fixtures at Bernice Vossbeck Elementary School. This 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 were in the building. No water samples showed detectable lead.

**Why is lead a problem?**

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

It is 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.

**How can I learn more?**

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Reed Gillig at 360-354-8679. 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,

Reed Gillig  
Facilities Supervisor  
Lynden School District #504

## **News Release for no Lead Found**

**For immediate release: June 8, 2018**

Contact: Reed Gillig, 360.319.7451

### **No lead found in drinking water at Bernice Vossbeck Elementary School**

LYNDEN – Results from recent drinking water tests at Bernice Vossbeck Elementary School confirm that the water is safe for children to drink with no lead detected in any fixtures.

In 2017, the Legislature directed the Washington State Department of Health to test for lead in drinking water in public schools in an effort to reduce children’s overall exposure to lead in the environment. On (enter date) DOH sampled every fixture that provides drinking water to students or is used to prepare food.

“Our students’ health and safety is our top priority. When we had the opportunity for the stat to test our school’s water we were happy to participate,” said Facilities Supervisor, Reed Gillig.

The water testing followed federal and state guidelines for sample collection and testing.

Information about the lead testing program, including laboratory results, can be found at the district office Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.