News Release for Lead Detected Greater Than or Equal to 20 ppb

For immediate release: December 4, 2019

Contact: Brian Freeman (509) 369-4145

Lead Found in Drinking Water at Klickitat School District schools

Klickitat School District Community - Results from recent drinking water tests at Klickitat School District schools found lead present in three (3) water samples had levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb). In addition, 16 sample results are not available at this time. We are turning off and will be replacing the four fixtures in the Home Ec Room (based on results for two of the fixtures) and turning off all of the bubblers in Elementary classrooms (based on results from one fixture) – we will be removing these bubblers during the Winter break. There will also be additional follow-up testing.

On November 20, 2019, health officials from the Washington State Department of Health sampled 29 fixtures at Klickitat School District schools. This represents every fixture that provides drinking water to students or is used to prepare food. The water samples showed three (3) fixtures with lead levels above 20 parts per billion. In addition, 16 sample results are not available at this time. In addition, four (4) water samples at the Community Center were tested; three (3) water sample results from the Community Center are still pending. Our students’ health and safety is our top priority. When we had the opportunity for the state to test our school’s water we were happy to participate.

The District is working closely with the Department of Health on permanent remediation activities. In the meantime, fixtures that exceed 20 parts per billion lead have been taken out of service. We are continuing to provide water bottles to students and staff – the water three (3) filling stations are all within normal range.

Parents concerned about their child’s lead exposure for any reason should ask their healthcare provider about lead screening.