

Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Bend Bulletin
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Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

Database gathers school lead test results

PORTLAND — State health and education officials have launched an online database that allows parents to find out how much lead is in the water in their

children's school. The Oregon Health Authority said Wednesday that the tool provides an interactive map and displays results for individual school buildings across the state. Schools were not required to submit test results. The state does not have statutory authority to mandate testing for lead in school drinking water, but state officials have strongly recommended that all schools test their facilities. The state Department of Education also adopted new rules requiring schools to create a plan to test drinking water for lead.

Staff and wire reports

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
The Oregonian
(Cir. D. 70,646)

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LEAD IN SCHOOLS 744-7

Officials launch state database

Oregon health and education officials have launched an online database that allows parents to find out how much lead is in the water in their children's school.

The testing: While the state does not have authority to mandate testing for lead in school drinking water, the Oregon Health Authority this summer recommended all of the state's school districts test their facilities. The state Department of Education also adopted new rules requiring schools to create a plan to test drinking water for lead.

The database: The Oregon Health Authority said Wednesday it provides an interactive map and displays results for individual school buildings across the state. However, schools were not required to submit test results. Find it online: arcg.is/2hkUHYZ.

Portland: You can find results from lead testing conducted this summer at Portland Public Schools online at projects.oregonlive.com/lead/schools.

— Associated Press

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OHA's new interactive map tracks lead test data for Oregon schools

By Kayley Fiscaro
The Bulletin

A new interactive map will give people the chance to look up results for drinking water lead tests in their local schools.

The tool, created by the Oregon Health Authority, will expire at the end of the 2016-17 school year. In 2017 districts will be required to submit Healthy and Safe School Facilities Plans to the Oregon Department of Education.

National attention was drawn to testing school drink-

View the map at j.mp/bbwatermap

ing water for lead following a crisis in Flint, Michigan. Parents in Portland accused the school district of withholding test results that showed elevated levels of lead in their water supplies.

Many school districts, including those in Central Oregon, chose to complete tests. Schools weren't required by law to submit water test results, but state agencies

strongly recommended schools test their facilities, according to a release from ODE. The Oregon Health Authority made its recommendation in June.

Bend-La Pine, Jefferson County, Crook County, Redmond, Culver and Sisters school districts all have tested for lead in drinking water, as previously reported by The Bulletin. Tests in Jefferson County, Sisters, Culver and Redmond school districts showed no elevated levels of lead in the water. Bend-La Pine

Schools had some fixtures with elevated levels, and Crook County had one fixture showing an elevated level of lead.

Last month Bend-La Pine replaced all under-sink shut-off valves, drinking fountains and faucets at Amity Creek Magnet School after elevated levels of lead were found there. Water test results from the new fixtures all fell within the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines, according to the school district's website.

See Map / A4

Map

Continued from A3

Results from other Bend-La Pine schools fell within EPA guidelines.

OHA's interactive map was created after Gov. Kate Brown asked last spring for the OHA

and state Department of Education to look at existing state programs and create a plan to address lead in school water, among other environmental concerns, according to a release from ODE.

ODE has new rules requiring schools to complete

Healthy and Safe Schools plans by 2017. Included in their plans, school districts must outline how they will test drinking water for lead.

To view the map, visit: j.mp/bbwatermap.

— Reporter: 541-383-0325, kfiscaro@bendbulletin.com

744-7

Map shows lead-testing results

Data from several districts, including the LOSD, are not yet included

By JILLIAN DALEY
The Review

State health and education officials have launched a new database that includes the results of water tests for lead in Oregon schools and an interactive map with results for individual school buildings.

The map, which was unveiled last week, is designed to serve as a one-time resource because schools will now transition from providing test results on their own websites to submitting official Healthy and Safe School Facilities plans to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

The map, which will remain online until the end of this school year, is not yet complete. Results from schools in several districts, including Newberg, Tigard-Tualatin, Riverdale and others, are not included.

Also missing: the Lake Os-

wego School District. Stuart Ketzler, the LOSD's executive director of finance, told The Review this week that additional testing is currently underway and that LOSD officials are evaluating whether they want previous results — which have already been shared with the community and are currently posted on the district's website — included on the state map.

The LOSD collected samples of water at all its buildings in May and performed follow-up lead testing at Lake Oswego Junior High before classes began this fall. Those samples showed that in-use water fountains do not have unsafe levels of lead in any of the district's buildings.

All 197 school districts in the state were asked to formulate a Healthy and Safe School Facilities plan by Jan. 1 after revelations earlier this year of high lead levels in the drinking water at Portland Public Schools. In April, Gov. Kate Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority and the ODE to assess current programs and craft a plan to address the problem, according to the OHA website.

The state agencies immediately required school districts and child care facilities to test

LEARN MORE

■ To see the state's interactive map of school lead-testing results, visit healthoregon.org/schoolwaterdata.

■ To see results from testing in the Lake Oswego School District, go to <http://bit.ly/2hpN3hh>.

■ To learn about changes to school facilities, visit tinyurl.com/Healthy-School-Communities.

for lead in all buildings; in the LOSD, that effort is ongoing as the district moves toward submitting its official plan with the state.

"Additional testing for all fixtures at all other schools that could reasonably be used for food prep or drinking water had samples pulled and submitted to the testing lab last month, but test results are not expected until January as the lab has a significant backlog," Ketzler said. "As we did this past summer, any fixtures with test results that exceed EPA thresholds will be turned off and replaced if necessary and the new fixture retested before being made available."

A draft plan for the LOSD has already been created and is being reviewed. It will be final-

ized by Jan. 1 and its completion is not contingent upon the test results, Ketzler said.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency recommends outlets be taken out of service at 20 ppb or higher. After the May sample test results were released in June, two fixtures in two LOSD buildings tested positive for lead levels that the EPA classifies as above the maximum contamination limit, according to a district-commissioned report.

Neither of the fixtures — a drinking fountain in the Technology Building on the Lake Oswego High School campus and a handwashing sink in the Lake Oswego Junior High School kitchen — were regularly used by children, a district report said.

The Technology Building fountain, which was "rarely used" and is located in a staff development room, tested at 35 parts per billion for lead, the report said. The sink in the LOJ kitchen tested at 34 parts per billion. Both sinks were shut off.

Subsequent tests at LOJ, with results released in September, indicated water was safe for students and staff.

Contact Jillian Daley at 503-636-1281 ext. 109 or jdaley@lakeoswego-review.com.

Lake Oswego, OR
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KETZLER

OHA provides access to school water testing results

VERA WESTBROOK 744-7
The News-Review

State health and education officials have launched a database for accessing water test results for lead in Oregon schools. The tool provides an interactive map of Oregon and displays results for school buildings across the state.

The mapping tool acts as a one-time source for sharing information as schools transition from providing test results on their websites to submitting

Healthy and Safe School Facilities plans to the Oregon Department of Education in 2017.

State officials acknowledge that lead testing data is technical and can be difficult to understand, so they are providing a FAQ to help translate and decipher testing results and a video tutorial for how to use the map.

The information is scheduled to remain online until the end of the 2016-17 school year and is not intended to replace

communication with schools.

While state agencies do not have statutory authority to mandate testing for lead in school drinking water, it has been strongly recommended that all schools test their facilities.

The state's Early Learning Council has convened a work group to examine strategies for reducing lead exposure in child care facilities and is scheduled to provide a recommendation regarding testing next month.

For more information see the Drinking Water Test Results for Oregon Schools interactive map at geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6a4f2b6001bd474ca7d0a7f0c2552f57.

For the Map FAQ see public.health.oregon.gov/Healthy-Environments/HealthyNeighborhoods/HealthySchool-Facilities/Documents/understanding-school-drinking-water-data.pdf.

To see the video tutorial for

the map see www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXrn_BKyPv8.

The public can also access the OHA-hosted Healthy School Facilities web page at public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/HealthyNeighborhoods/HealthySchoolFacilities/Pages/index.aspx to learn more about healthy learning environments and lead testing in Oregon.

For public health information call 971-239-6483 and for education-related questions call 503-947-5650.

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(Baker Co.)
Hells Canyon Journal
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2018: 744-7
Continued on page 7

School Drinking Water Safe; Lead Levels Improve in Second Testing

Pine Eagle School District announced the results of a second round of tests for elevated lead levels in the school's drinking water last week that showed improved results for the 19 sites which had initially shown low, but

measurable, lead levels.

The retesting was conducted in all three school buildings in November by school personnel following Federal and State guidelines. Samples were sent to a state certified laboratory for analysis. The results were received by the School District and released within five business days.

Nineteen sites were retested after a first test showed trace amounts of lead below the acceptable levels according to federal guidelines. Thirteen of the retested sites were negative for any lead, and six of the retested sites continued to show trace amounts of lead that were below the acceptable levels according to Federal guidelines. No further

action is required at this time.

Pine Eagle's lead testing program was instituted to ensure that drinking water in the school system is safe for children, staff and patrons of the District. Water with high lead levels can contribute to negative health effects, especially in young children.

Information about the lead testing program, including the laboratory results, are available at the District Office located at 150 W. Bell St. in Halfway Oregon. The District office is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The laboratory results are also available on the District website at www.pineeaglesd.org.

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Schools reimbursed for water lead testing

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Emergency Board on Wednesday approved reimbursing schools more than \$2 million for about 53,000 tests for lead in school water supplies.

The board established a \$5 million reserve fund in September and authorized the Oregon Department of Education to accept applications from schools for reimbursement of costs associated with testing for elevated lead levels in drinking water.

The 53,000 tests come from school districts that represent 89 percent of public school students in the state, according to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Office.

School districts had until Dec. 1 to submit invoices for reimbursement. They could make requests for tests conducted between March and Dec. 1. The money only covers the cost of collecting and testing water supplies. It doesn't account for any

expenses associated with mitigation of lead contamination.

The widespread testing followed widespread media coverage of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported.

In August, the state Board of Education — at the behest of Gov. Kate Brown — approved a rule that requires school districts to submit a plan for testing for lead in water and other toxins in school environments and to report any results to the public. The rule doesn't require actual testing.

Education and health authorities unveiled a database Dec. 7 that allows the public to look up lead test results.

Lawmakers have said they might consider legislation in 2017 that would require districts to test for lead in water.

New York recently enacted a law requiring schools to test for lead, report results to the public and develop a plan for reducing exposure to the toxin.

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EDDYVILLE CHARTER SCHOOL

Long-term water solutions sought

BY CALLEY HAIR
Of the News-Times
744-7

EDDYVILLE — Eddyville Charter School detected traces of lead and copper in its water during a random sampling, a discovery the school addressed by swapping out one sink fixture and shutting another faucet off altogether. The problem has been solved in the short term, although Principal and Superintendent Jennifer Johnson said the school is looking at long-term solutions to update the rural school's water system, which dates back to the late 1920s.

"We plan to make some renovations this summer to eliminate further issues as much as possible," said Johnson in a Dec. 19 email to the News-Times.

In a Nov. 1 release, the school informed parents that a random testing of 10 faucets on Oct. 26 had turned up two samples above the federal limit for lead, and one over the limit for copper.

One faucet, located in room 47, returned a lead concentration more than 10 times the federal limit with 0.164 milligrams per liter of water. Another faucet, located in the kitchen, returned a borderline

result of 0.0176 mg/L.

The Environmental Protection Agency sets the action limit for lead at 0.015 mg/L, while the Oregon Health Authority allows for a bit more flexibility at 0.020 mg/L. The kitchen faucet hovered between those two allowable limits.

The sample drawn from room 47 also turned up results just over the actionable limit for copper. The water's concentration was 1.33 mg/L, barely above the EPA's cap at 1.30 mg/L.

In the release, Johnson outlined the steps the school took to address the issue.

"We cut access to the water fountain and the sink in room 47, and are only using the water in the kitchen for non-potable uses," Johnson wrote.

"The kitchen staff is using bottled water for cooking. We brought in bottled water for the students in room 47."

Since then, Johnson said the school replaced the fixture in the kitchen sink. A second round of testing came back with clean results. The faucet in room 47 remains off.

Nestled off the grid 20

miles east of Newport, Eddyville Charter's rural location requires that the school draw its water from a well. Individual well owners are required to ensure their quality of their own water, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The October tests aren't the first time the school has faced water quality woes — testing in 2013 and 2014 found high lead levels, spurring the school to contract with Culligan Water Systems to install a treatment system designed to pull lead from the water.

The school also had to replace about \$20,000 worth of pipes, according to a May 2015 report in the News-Times.

"Eddyville Charter School is on a well," said Johnson in the release.

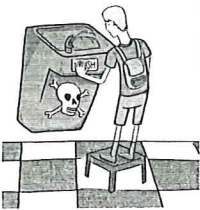
"(We're) looking for long-term solutions for this situation. We want you to know that we put our student's health and safety first and foremost."

Contact reporter Calley Hair at 541-265-8571 ext. 211 or chair@newportnews-times.com

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744-7 SCHOOLING



JODIE BECHER

0 Oregon day care centers that are required to do the same.

\$11,118
Average annual cost of day care per child in Oregon.

\$8,304
Annual tuition at Portland State University.

\$401,700
Annual salary of PSU President Wim Wiewel, who announced his 2017 retirement in July.

\$401,700
Value of Wiewel's one-year sabbatical after he retires.

54
Days after the lead crisis hit Portland Public Schools before then-Superintendent Carole Smith resigned.

139
Water fixtures in Portland Public Schools buildings that had produced lead levels over the federal standard of 15 parts per billion, as of June 1.

80
Percentage of Oregon schools that have voluntarily reported to the state having tested their drinking water for lead.



9
Genders that students enrolling at PSU can select from, as of this year.