



Marion County
OREGON
Health Department



ALERT

**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO
CLINIC PROVIDERS**

To:
Fax number:

From: Marion County Health Department
Fax number: (503) 566-2920

Date: **August 26, 2016**

Regarding: Drinking Water Lead Testing of
Schools and Child care facilities

Phone number for follow-up: (503) 588-5346

As part of the statewide plan for reducing student exposure to lead in drinking water, school districts and childcare facilities in Oregon are currently in the process of testing all water sources used for drinking and food preparation to identify any lead problems.

Testing results for individual facilities in Salem-Keizer School District (including those in Polk County) will be posted at: <http://www.salkeiz.k12.or.us/parents/water-testing-information>, and parents will be notified of elevated results. Check with other Marion County school districts for information on drinking water lead testing results in their facilities.

- **Most children exposed are exposed to lead from household dust containing lead from paint used prior to 1978 (and especially before 1950). Lead-based paint can also be found in soil around homes due to peeling or chipping lead paint and remodeling activities, or due to dust deposited from automobile exhaust on nearby roads before leaded gasoline was phased out (1973-1996).**
- **Lead in drinking water is not a common source of exposure in Oregon. Lead may enter drinking water from plumbing or fixtures containing lead.**

Parents with concerns about children's exposure to elevated lead levels in school or childcare facilities drinking water (more than 20 parts per billion, (ppb)) of lead are being directed to contact their health care provider.

- **Providers conducting lead testing on children potentially exposed in schools or childcare facilities are recommended to obtain venous specimens rather than capillary blood which may show falsely elevated levels due to surface contamination. An elevated capillary blood lead test should be confirmed with a venous specimen.**

Lead exposure can result in behavior and learning problems, especially in young children.

Additional resources on lead exposure may be found at:
<https://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/program.aspx?pid=73>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/leadinwater/>