



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service

June 30, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Department of Health Implementation of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1139 Lead in School Drinking Water

In accordance with Chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, the Department of Health (DOH) collaborates with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people. Therefore, please be advised we are developing a plan to implement Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1139 Lead in School Drinking Water.

Purpose

In its 2021 session, the Washington State Legislature passed [ESSB 1139](#) and Governor Inslee signed the bill into law. This legislation was not requested by DOH as part of our policy/budget package for the session. However, DOH was mandated by the legislature to implement it by testing all public schools built, or with all plumbing replaced, before 2016 for lead in drinking water by June 30, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter or verify a contractor has done so according to DOH guidelines. Remediation must take place on any outlet testing higher than 5 parts per billion. Funds have been allocated to Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to cover remediation costs.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Health Organizations

State-Tribal compact schools established under Chapter 28A.715 can opt into sampling and testing for lead contamination at drinking water outlets in school buildings built, or with all plumbing replaced, before 2016.

We would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share, including whether the implementation of this legislation will have disproportionate impact on American Indian/Alaska Native people, Indian Health Program, or Urban Indian Health Organizations.

Copies, Comments, and Questions

Our division will make copies of materials related to the implementation of this legislation upon your request as they become available. To request a copy of the materials specific to the action, or to provide comments, please contact Anneke Jansen, Healthy Homes and Communities Section Manager 360-789-8738 or by email at anneke.jansen@doh.wa.gov.

The Honorable Tribal Leader

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Please contact Tamara Fife, our agency's Tribal Relations Director, by telephone at 360-870-8903 or by email at: tamara.fife@doh.wa.gov if you would like to request a formal consultation with the agency or if you have tribal-affairs related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura Johnson', is positioned above the typed name.

Laura Johnson
Office Director
Environmental Public Health Sciences

cc: Umair Shah, MD, MPH
Tamara Fife, MPH
Anneke Jansen, MPH