



QUILLAYUTE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Office of Superintendent

April 13, 2026

Dear Families and Staff of Quillayute Valley School District:

We are writing to provide you with an update on our ongoing efforts to ensure safe drinking water in our schools. As you may recall, Washington state law (RCW 28A.210.410 and RCW 43.70.830) requires all K-12 public schools built before 2016 to test drinking water outlets for lead. The purpose of this testing is to identify outlets that may be potential sources of lead exposure so they can be shut off or replaced to reduce exposure to lead from school drinking water.

What We've Done

Following our initial testing in November 2024, we identified 74 fixtures across our three schools (Forks Elementary, Forks Middle School, and Forks High School) with elevated lead levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb). We immediately acted by labeling affected fixtures as "handwash only" or shutting them off entirely and developed a comprehensive remediation plan.

In August 2025, we completed remediation work at all three schools, replacing fixtures, hoses, and supply stops at all 74 previously elevated outlets. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) conducted post-remediation testing on November 22, 2025, and we received results for Forks Intermediate School (February 25th, 2026) and Forks Junior-Senior High School (February 18th, 2026).

Post-Remediation Results

We are pleased to report significant progress. Of the original 74 elevated fixtures, 51 (75%) now test at or below 5 ppb and have been returned to service. Seventeen (17) fixtures remain elevated and will undergo additional remediation and retesting.

Forks Elementary School Results:

- 31 of 37 fixtures (84%) now test at 5 ppb or below and have been returned to service.
- 5 fixtures test between 6-8 ppb and remain restricted.
- 1 fixture (Room 310 tap) tests at 16 ppb and remains shut off.

Forks Middle School Results:

- 13 of 18 fixtures (72%) now test at 5 ppb or below and have been returned to service.
- 4 fixtures tested between 6-12 ppb and remain restricted.
- 1 fixture (Room 14 tap) tests at 40 ppb and has been changed from handwash only to being shut off.

Forks High School Results:

- 7 of 13 fixtures (54%) now test at 5 ppb or below and have been returned to service.
- 4 fixtures test between 6-10 ppb and remain restricted.
- 2 fixtures (Metal Shop sinks) test at 18 and 36 ppb and have been shut off or remain shut off.

Quillayute Valley School District Number 402

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The 17 fixtures that continue to test above 5 ppb will undergo additional remediation and retesting. These fixtures remain clearly marked and are not available for drinking water use. Students and staff have access to compliant water sources in all areas of the school.

What Happens Next

All fixtures that continue to test above 5 ppb remain clearly marked and are not available for drinking water use. Students and staff have access to compliant water sources in all areas of each school. The district will schedule additional remediation for the 17 remaining fixtures, with priority given to those testing above 15 ppb. Following remediation, DOH will conduct a second round of post-remediation testing.

Why Lead is a Concern

Children are exposed to lead from a variety of environmental sources. Each exposure contributes to the amount of lead in a child's body. While the likelihood of school drinking water alone causing an elevated blood lead level is very low, 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.

Children over the age of eight are less susceptible to the impacts of lead exposure. Children who have been exposed to lead may not look or act sick. The best way to tell if a child has been exposed is with a blood lead test.

Where to Learn More

Lead test results and our complete, updated Action Plan are available at the district office and on our website:

<https://www.qvschools.org/documents/district/safety-and-health/lead-in-drinking-water/762736>

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Bill Henderson, Maintenance Supervisor, at maintenance@qvschools.org or 360-374-6262 x126.

Additional information about lead exposure and how to prevent it is available at doh.wa.gov/lead. You can also reach out to the DOH Childhood Blood Lead Program at 800-909-9898 or lead@doh.wa.gov for more information. If you are concerned that your child has been exposed to lead for any reason, ask your healthcare provider about having them tested for lead.

We remain committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff. Thank you for your continued support as we work to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Diana Reaume".

Diana Reaume, Superintendent