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## **Lead Testing Results for Brookings-Harbor School District**

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROOKINGS — The Brookings-Harbor School District tested all water sources within the district and identified two locations with lead levels that were slightly higher than the minimum level of 20 parts per billion, recently set forth in regulations from the State Board of Education. The two locations identified were both hand washing sinks at Brookings-Harbor High School — one in the media lab, and one in a boys' bathroom.

No sites at Azalea Middle School or Kalmiopsis Elementary School tested positive for significant levels of lead. Across the district, all water sources used primarily for drinking water, such as drinking fountains and kitchen sinks, had no detectable lead present or tested far below the minimum threshold for possible lead exposure.

The district has shut down, covered and tagged the two affected hand washing sinks until repairs can be made. Water samples from the two affected sinks at the high school had test results that measured 22.9 parts per billion in the media lab and 32.5 parts per billion in the boys' restroom. The sinks will be re-tested to ensure that lead levels are below the minimum threshold of 20 parts per billion before they are put back into use.

In total, 30 sites were tested this summer and the results were received by the Brookings-Harbor School District on Aug. 31, 2016 in a report from McCowan Clinical Laboratory, Inc. through ALG (Analytical Laboratory Group) in Eugene, Oregon.

The district is currently developing a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan as required by state law before January 1, 2017.

This Spring, after some schools in Oregon were found to have significant levels of lead in water sources, state officials and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) made the recommendation that all public schools and daycare centers test their water for lead this summer, using accredited drinking water testing labs.

In August 2016, that recommendation became law with the introduction of OAR 581-022-2223, the Healthy and Safe Schools Plan. The plan requires that each school district must develop a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan for all buildings where students

and staff are present on a regular basis; and each school district must release plans to test for exposure to lead in drinking water. If found, school districts must share a plan to reduce exposure and communicate the results of all tests to the public.

According to the EPA, lead can enter drinking water when pipes that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures with lead solder, from which significant amounts of lead can enter into the water, especially hot water. Facilities and homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder.

Brookings-Harbor School District will provide all necessary documentation to the Oregon Department of Education, and will continue to work on the established preventative maintenance schedule for all primary and secondary water sites.

A copy of all the district's latest water testing results can be viewed on the website under Healthy & Safe Schools Plan at [www.brookings.k12.or.us](http://www.brookings.k12.or.us) or at the district office, (541 469-7443, 629 Easy Street, Brookings, OR). Please contact the district office or Superintendent Sean Gallagher with any questions ([seang@brookings.k12.or.us](mailto:seang@brookings.k12.or.us)).

Read the full August 2016 Lead Analysis Report (PDF): <http://www.brookings.k12.or.us/safeschools.cfm> (For reference: 0.0200 milligrams per Liter is equal to 20 parts per billion).

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#### Additional Resources:

- Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Drinking Water: <https://public.health.oregon.gov/Healthy-Environments/DrinkingWater/Pages/index.aspx>
- EPA, Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>
- EPA, Learn About Lead: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead>
- EPA, Lead in Schools Resources in Spanish: <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/el-plomo-del-agua-potable-en-las-escuelas-y-los-centros-de-cuidado-infantil>