

Notice to Drinking Water Customers

Drinking water samples collected from: Griffin School, ID#29887B, Thurston County, Well 2 on 6/29/22 and 8/21/22 included detections the following per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) above a State Action Level (SAL):

PFAS contaminant	Detected level (ppt*)	SAL (ppt)
PFOS - perfluorooctane sulfonic acid	18	15

*ppt – parts per trillion or nanograms per liter.

In 2021, the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) adopted a rule that requires our water system to test for a new class of contaminants not currently regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The rule also requires us to notify you if our results exceed a SAL.

PFOS is one sub-category of PFAS. Two samples have been collected with results of 17 ppt and 19 ppt to confirm contamination of the aquifer has occurred. Other wells in the area have been tested and found to also contain PFAS, thus the contamination appears to be regional and not just a single well contamination issue. 18 parts per trillion is a very small amount of contamination (less than one drop in an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Nevertheless, because of the uncertainty associated with the potential risks associated with PFAS, even such a small amount is taken seriously. The Griffin School District has directed resources to resolve this contamination as quickly as possible (see **What is Being Done** below).

What do we know about PFAS?

PFAS are a large family of chemicals that are tasteless, colorless, and odorless. They do not occur in nature and are produced to make many products including stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, nonstick pans (ie Teflon), fast food wrappers, grease-proof food containers, waterproof clothing, and a special kind of firefighting foam. Over many years of manufacturing and use these unregulated chemicals have been released into the environment from industrial plants, fire training sites, consumer products and other sources. Once released, PFAS do not break down easily and last for a long time in the environment. Some PFAS have seeped from surface soil into groundwater. Public health officials are concerned about PFAS in drinking water because of new information about their potential human health effects. When ingested, some PFAS can build up in the body and, over time, may increase to a level where health effects could occur. Human health effects of PFAS are still being actively researched and health advice continues to evolve.

What should you do?

There is nothing required of you at this time.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following for students, teachers, and staff:

- People who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or mixing infant formula with tap water, use an alternative source for drinking or mixing infant formula, such as using bottled water.
- All consumers can learn about PFAS and the steps you can take to reduce your exposure to PFAS in drinking water, while your water system evaluates options. Visit the PFAS information page (www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS) on the state's DOH website to help you become an informed citizen and participate in any local decisions.
- Do NOT boil your water to reduce PFAS. Boiling your water will not reduce PFAS levels.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your healthcare provider.

What are the potential health effects?

There are many different PFAS and we are still learning about their health effects in people.

- *PFOS - Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the SAL over many years may experience problems with their cholesterol, liver, thyroid, kidney, or immune systems; or have children with lower birthweights.*

You can learn more at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html.

What is a State Action Level (SAL)?

Washington State develops SALs to protect the health of drinking water consumers from contaminants that are not regulated federally. The PFAS SALs are public health goals for lifetime consumption of water. They also apply to water consumption by pregnant and breastfeeding persons and infants over shorter periods of time (months). If you have been drinking water over the SAL, it doesn't mean you will get sick or have health problems from this exposure. When tap water exceeds a SAL, the state department of health recommends that the water system take action to bring the level below the SALs for long term drinking.

What is being done:

- Griffin School District is working closely with the Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH) to ensure the most up-to-date information and best practices are utilized.
- Griffin School District is working closely with our professional water management company to continue testing our water and ensuring compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations as well as provide us with guidance to ensure we are making the best decisions possible for our students, teachers and staff.
- The School District has designated capital funds to be made available for the design and installation of a water treatment plant to remove PFAS from the source water.
- We are providing Treatment at drinking fountains and water bottle fill stations, or the stations will be disabled if treatment is not feasible.
- Bottled water will be provided.
- We have hired a professional engineer to complete a water treatment design to remove all detectable PFAS contaminants from our drinking water.
- The WSDOH has agreed to expedite the review of the engineering plans, once completed and submitted by the engineer.
- The Griffin School District IT department is creating a space on our web page where you can find the most up-to-date information regarding the PFAS challenge we are facing.

For more information, please call Travis Warren at (360) 866-5907 or email twarren@griffinschool.us.

Please share this notice with others who may drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments and businesses). We encourage you to post it in a public place, share copies by hand, or mail.

The Griffin School Water System ID#29887B sent this notice to you on ___/___/___