

LCR Failure to Install Corrosion Control Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Chemawa Indian School Water Contains High Levels of Copper

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for copper. The tests show copper levels in the water above the limit, or "action level," so we are required to install corrosion control treatment. This treatment helps prevent copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. Corrosion control should have been installed by June 30, 2018, but installation is incomplete.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to copper:

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for copper.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing copper from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Typically, copper enters water supplies by leaching from copper pipes and plumbing components. New copper pipes and plumbing components may increase leaching.

Short term exposure; Gastrointestinal distress; Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage; People with Wilsons Disease should consult their personal doctor if the amount of copper in their water exceeds the action level.

What is being done?

Water dispensers have been placed at multiple sites on campus including head start and the clinic. A standard practice notice has been placed in the kitchen to run water 15-30 seconds before using water to cook with.

The response to the corrosion issue and subsequent elevated copper levels will be to replace all copper pipes in the school and the dormitory with CPVC (PEX) pipe. The BIA is currently planning the timing of the installation.

For more information, please contact Shane Parlette at 503-509-0446 or Jeffrey Beach at 503-881-3488.

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