

LEAD TESTING REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Introduction

This FAQ is designed to provide school districts, ESDs, and charter schools (collectively “Districts” or “District”) with information about how they can access funds for reimbursement of testing pipes and fixtures used for drinking, food preparation, and other human consumption for elevated levels of lead. The Legislature, through the Emergency Board, reserved \$5 million to reimburse Districts for the cost of this testing.

Who is eligible to receive the reimbursement for costs of testing?

School districts, ESDs, and charter schools are eligible to receive the reimbursement funds.

So charter schools are eligible for this reimbursement program?

Yes.

How do charter schools participate in this program?

Charter schools will need to submit their invoices through the school district where they are located.

What is eligible for reimbursement?

The following requirements need to be met in order for a District to receive reimbursement:

- Samples must be submitted to an OHA accredited lab between March 1, 2016 and December 1, 2016;
- Only costs associated with testing for elevated lead levels will be reimbursed; and
- Only samples collected from water fixtures used for drinking, food preparation, and other human consumption will be eligible for reimbursement.

What does “human consumption” mean for the use of drinking water?

Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Oregon Administrative Rule for Public Water Systems, defines “Human Consumption” as:

OAR 333-061-0020(95) “Human Consumption,” means water used for drinking, personal hygiene bathing, showering, cooking, dishwashing, and maintaining oral hygiene.

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My District is conducting additional tests on the water samples drawn from district faucets, for example, copper levels. Are these testing costs reimbursable?

Costs for additional tests are not reimbursable. However, if your District has invoices with the combined costs, submit those invoices. Your District will be reimbursed for the lead component of the test.

Does this include any costs for remediation?

No. Remediation costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

My school district performed first draw test and found some elevated levels of lead. A second test was performed after some remediation. Is the second test eligible for reimbursement?

Yes. So long as the test meets the above listed criteria, then the test is eligible for reimbursement. It does not matter if it was a second test or not.

What kind of lab must school districts, ESDs, and charter schools use?

Districts must use an Oregon Health Authority (OHA) accredited lab for testing in order for those tests to be eligible for reimbursement.

Where can I find a list of OHA accredited labs?

You can find a list of OHA accredits labs

here: <https://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/EnvironmentalLaboratoryAccreditation/Documents/AllLabsDWMatrix.pdf>

What is the amount that will be reimbursed?

The amount that will be reimbursed depends on the total number of tests and the costs for lab work incurred by Districts across the state.

I thought the Legislature provided a \$5 million appropriation, why is the amount of reimbursement unknown?

The Legislature, through the Emergency Board, made a \$5 million reservation of the General Fund. The actual allocation of funds has yet to occur.

When will the Emergency Board allocate the funds to pay for the testing of lead levels?

The Emergency Board next meets in December. Between now and then, ODE will be working with Districts to collect specific and actual cost data. Once that data is known, ODE will report to the Legislature about the estimated amounts needed to reimburse districts for testing. The Emergency Board will make a final allocation based on that information

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What will need to be submitted to ODE to provide accurate information?

Districts will need to submit the following types of documents:

- Documentation demonstrating that the water fixture being tested is used for drinking, food preparation, or other human consumption (see provided template);
- Documentation demonstrating that the District used an OHA accredited lab; and
- Invoices from the OHA accredited lab showing the total costs of the test and the number of tests performed.

What documentation will demonstrate that the fixture is used for drinking, food preparation, or other human consumption?

ODE will not require a specific form for the data. However, it is anticipated that districts will show, in tabular or spreadsheet form, a means of identifying where the sample was taken and that the fixture is used for drinking, food preparation, or other human consumption.

So when would Districts actually receive funds?

Districts will receive funds in a timely manner once the final allocation is made and the reimbursement rate is calculated.

How will Districts be reimbursed?

Districts will be reimbursed through the Electronic Grant Management System, once the reimbursement amounts have been calculated.

I just submitted my samples to the lab to test and do not have an invoice yet. How do I meet the requirements for submitting an invoice?

If a District has not yet received an invoice from an OHA accredited lab, then the District may submit other evidence from the Lab showing the number of tests to be performed. If there is an estimated cost that the District may receive from the lab, then the District should obtain that and submit that information as well.

How do I submit this information to ODE?

If the attachments are small, under 5 MB, then Districts may submit the information to ode.schoolfacilities@state.or.us. If the attachments are large, then the attachments will need to be combined into one document and submitted to ode.schoolfacilities@state.or.us through the secure file transfer protocol.