

# DRINKING WATER WARNING

## Victor Point School Has Arsenic Above Drinking Water Standard Maximum Contaminant Level

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We received notice on **September 20, 2019** that the sample collected on **September 10, 2019** showed arsenic levels at **0.0265** milligrams per liter (mg/L) which exceeds the arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.010 mg/L but is **below** the acute level of 0.035 mg/L. Arsenic in drinking water at high levels is a serious health concern.

### What should I do?

You should avoid drinking water with high levels of arsenic. Use an alternate source of drinking water until the contamination issue can be resolved or another safe water source is available. If arsenic levels are:

<b>Higher than 0.035 mg/L</b>	Young children, especially infants should <b>IMMEDIATELY STOP DRINKING THE WATER.</b>
<b>Between 0.100 and 0.499 mg/L</b>	Water should NOT be used for irrigation; it can be used for bathing, showering and swimming if water is NOT swallowed. Children should be CLOSELY supervised.
<b>0.500 mg/L or higher</b>	<b>DO NOT USE</b> the water for any domestic uses.

**DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling does not reduce the amount of arsenic in the water and may even concentrate it. Over-the-counter filters do not remove arsenic from water. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant or children, are pregnant, or elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care provider about drinking this water.

Arsenic levels above 0.035 mg/L have been associated with health effects in children after very short-term exposure (two weeks or less) because children drink more water per body weight than adults and they are passing through important developmental stages, especially brain development.

### What does this mean?

Potential health effects when drinking water high in arsenic over a short time period include: stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, heart, lung, liver, immune, nervous or reproductive system disorders and diabetes. Some people who drink water containing arsenic above the MCL for many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### What is being done?

We are working with Marion County Health and Oregon Health Associations guidance as we continue to evaluate the water supply in order to determine the next course of Action. We are also working with a water purification consultant to assist with this process. At this time we will be supplying bottled drinking water for students, staff, food preparation, and visitors. Most of the Drinking fountains at Victor Point currently have under counter carbon filtration systems, which should reduce Arsenic levels by 40-70%, however we are not relying on that without actual analytical results. We will be taking all drinking fountains out of service at this time while we await results from another round of water sampling. This additional sampling will include the source water as well as testing of the filtered faucets in order to determine actual

arsenic levels after filtration systems. Historically, there has not been a problem at this location with high levels of arsenic, so we are trying to determine what has changed. The results of this next round of sampling will determine our next course of action, which could include installation of an Arsenic Treatment system if necessary. We will continue to keep you informed as more information becomes available and next steps are determined. We will be working to resolve this problem as quickly as we possibly can.

For more information contact **Lorin Stanley** at **503 873-5303 ext. 1126** or at: **Stanley\_lorin@silverfalls.k12.or.us**.

*\* Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example people in apartments, trailers, mobile homes, or businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. \**

This notice is being sent to you by **Victor Point School. Water System ID # 41-93769.**

Date distributed: **September 23, 2019.**