

January 3, 2011

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HART-RANSOM'S DRINKING WATER

Hart-Ransom's Well Has Levels of Arsenic Above the Drinking Water Standard

Hart-Ransom Union School District's water well recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, District parents, students and staff have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Water sample results received on December 16, 2010 showed a running annual average arsenic level of 11.25 ug/L (micrograms per liter). This is above the U.S. EPA standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ug/L (micrograms per liter).

The California Department of Public Health advises that you do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g. bottled water). However, the District has chosen to provide bottled water at various locations on campus.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk to getting cancer.

If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

The School District is working with staff from the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources to research options to correct the problem. These options may include treating the water to remove arsenic; a new well will be drilled in the next several months as part of the campus construction project. We anticipate resolving the problem within the next six months. Bottled water will be used on campus until well water testing demonstrates that the water complies with the requirement.

For more information, please contact Dr. Ream Lochry, at 523-9996.