Communication template / website post for schools divisions

Drinking Water Lead Sampling

Information for Parents and Students

XYZ School Division

**DRAFT**

Health Canada released a new national guideline for lead in drinking water in March 2019. The new guideline lowered the allowable level for lead in drinking water from 0.01 mg/L (milligrams per litre) to 0.005 mg/L (milligrams per litre). The guideline also recommended testing drinking water at school taps and drinking water fountains.

In September 2020, the Office of the Auditor General released their report on the “Provincial Oversight of Drinking Water Safety”. The report recommends that the province require all schools and child care centres to promptly, and periodically thereafter, test for lead, and that the department of Conservation and Climate publicly report the results of these tests and corrective actions taken.”

[To ensure the safety of our students and staff, and in consultation with the Manitoba Office of Drinking Water and Manitoba Health and Seniors Care, XYZ School Division has begun testing for lead in drinking water. To date, XX samples have been taken, and XX samples exceeded the recommended limit for lead. For those fixtures exceeding the new guideline levels for lead in drinking water, the school division has either shut down those fountains or faucets, posted “do not drink” signage, or taken corrective action]. – *Paragraph to be completed by school division*

A summary of test results and the corrective actions to date are shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | Number samples taken | Number of samples exceeding the guideline | Corrective actions |
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The tap water is safe for washing hands. Students will be directed to safe drinking water locations throughout the school.­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ \_\_\_list locations or where bottled water can be obtained by children\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For further information on the School Division’s lead in drinking water testing program, please contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For further information about lead in drinking water, visit: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/rld_homechildcare.pdf>

For more information on the health risks of lead and other sources of exposure to lead, visit the Manitoba Health and Seniors Care webpage at: <https://manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/lead.html>

For information on *Lead in Drinking Water: Schools, Child Care Centres and Large Buildings*, visit:

[www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking\_water/rld\_largebuildings.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/rld_largebuildings.pdf)

For health-related questions on lead, call Health Links Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257, or call your local public health office – put number. - *You can find your local public health office information at* [*www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html*](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html)