Optional Template Letter for use by Schools or Child Care Centres

Dear Parents,

**Re: The New Health Canada Lead in Drinking Water Guideline**

Health Canada released a new national guideline for lead in drinking water in March 2019. The guideline lowered the allowable levels of lead in drinking water, from 0.01 mg/L (milligrams per litre) to 0.005 mg/L (milligrams per litre).

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 childcare 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.”

In response to the new guideline, and because lead may be found in older materials used in plumbing systems, our school/child care centre has conducted tests of all water fountains and faucets to ensure lead levels meet the current guideline.

Water testing in XYZ school / XYZ child care centre , conducted in 20XX, identified xxx fountains and/or xxx faucets that exceeded acceptable lead levels. [ Those fountains and faucets were either taken out of service, had “do not drink” signs posted, or corrective action was taken.

Further water testing will occur in Date 20XX, and corrective action will be taken as required.] – *to be completed by school/child care centre*

Further information about testing lead in drinking water in schools and daycares, can be found on the school division website at: xxxxxxxxxx

Information about lead, including health risks and how to test the water in your own home, can be found at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/rld_homechildcare.pdf>.

For additional health-related questions on lead, you can call Health Links–Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257, or contact your local public health office at [XXX- XXXX]. – *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)

Sincerely