



March 8, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Wellington Catholic District School Board has been testing for lead in school drinking water since 2007. New provincial testing requirements came into effect this July, which increased the amount of testing that is required for all schools and childcare centres. New amendments to *Ontario Regulation 243/07* came into effect July 1, 2017 and now require lead testing within schools and childcare centres for **all** fixtures used to provide drinking water and/or prepare food or drink for children under 18.

Testing and replacing fixtures happened last summer prior to the start of the school year and testing will continue to be conducted annually. The 2018 sampling window begins in May and continues until the end of October.

If a sample is identified as higher than the acceptable level of lead, the fixture that the water sample was taken from is immediately taken out of service and remains out until the fixture is replaced and/or re-tested and found to be within the acceptable levels. The Ontario drinking water quality standard for lead is 10 micrograms per litre. This standard is based on a national guideline set by Health Canada.

It's important to note that an exceedance is limited to a particular fixture, not the entire school's water supply. However, when there is an exceedance in a flushed sample, **all** fixtures in the school are flushed daily and the specific fixture is re-tested to ensure the levels are within a safe and acceptable level.

Going forward, if school testing indicates a lead exceedance, the Plant and Operations Department will notify the Principal immediately and communication will be provided to families.

Additional information can be found on our Board's website

<http://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/BoardOffice/PlantOperations/Pages/default.aspx>

As always, the safety and well-being of your children is our primary concern.

Sincerely,

Tracy McLennan
Superintendent of Corporate Services & Treasurer

