



Lambton Kent District School Board

Student Achievement ✓ *Community Success*

200 Wellington Street, P.O. Box 2019, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7L2

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June 14, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing today to make you aware of some changes to a provincial regulation which governs drinking water in schools and child care centres.

Since 2007, the Ontario government, under Regulation 243/07, has required that school boards flush the plumbing in schools, sample and test drinking water, maintain logs and report drinking water test results to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. In the event that levels of lead exceed ministry guidelines in a water sample, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and local public health officials must be notified and the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) follows the direction of the Medical Officers of Health.

Effective July 1, 2017, amendments to the regulation make it necessary for samples to be collected and tested for lead content at every drinking water fountain and every tap that is used in the preparation of food or drink, or to provide drinking water for consumption by children under 18 years of age, by 2020 in elementary schools and 2022 in secondary schools. Prior to July 1, the regulation required school boards to sample and test water for lead annually at only one location in the building.

Fixtures not used for drinking water, such as bathroom taps and hand sinks in classrooms, are not required to be tested and they will be posted with signage indicating that the water is not to be consumed and is for "Handwashing Only." Signage will also be posted to identify drinking water sources. All fixtures used for drinking water or in the preparation of food or drink will continue to be flushed as required.

The LKDSB will be working over the summer months to install the new signage and develop plans to complete the flushing and testing protocols in keeping with the ministry's timelines. As well, the LKDSB plans to install bottle filling stations in all our schools. Our goal is to install a bottle filling station in approximately 25 schools by August 2017 and at least one station in all other schools by August 2018. As always, the health and safety of our students, staff and visitors to our buildings are our number one priority.

We appreciate your support as the LKDSB works to implement these changes, which will further safeguard the quality of water in our schools and conserve water. If you have any questions, please contact your principal.

Sincerely,

Jim Costello
Director of Education
Lambton Kent District School Board