



November 6, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may have heard recent news media reports about the results of water testing at thousands of schools, day cares and public facilities across Ontario.

In light of this report, we want to reassure all parents that we take this issue very seriously, and are committed to ensuring that our water meets safety standards for students and staff.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know about our approach to this issue within our school board.

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Here are some important points to note:

- We have been testing our taps for over 10 years, consistent with Ontario regulatory requirements.
- Our water testing is done by Cambium Consulting and Engineering, an external agency who are experts in this area.
- We post our test results publicly at www.kprschoools.ca The link – called Energy/Water Reports - remains on the home page of our website, near the lower centre of the page.
- Two samples are taken during the test: a ‘standing’ sample of water that has been sitting in the pipes for at least six hours, and a ‘flushed’ sample after the tap has been allowed to run for a short period.
- We do our testing between May 1-October 31, as required by the lead regulation, with the majority of the testing completed during July and August.
- Provincial directives state the ‘flushed’ sample is the best indicator of safety; however, if either sample has lead levels above the provincial standard, we notify our local public health agencies and take corrective action.
- If any taps had a standing or flushed sample above the standard, we consulted our local public health agency and implemented corrective action.

Steps we take when there is a failed test:

Consistent with provincial regulations, here are the actions we take to fix any sample above the standard:

A failed test result (more than 10 parts per billion) after flushing results in the faucet being ‘bagged’ or removed from service and retested. Once it receives a passing grade after flushing, the faucet will still be placed on an increased flushing schedule, e.g. daily or weekly flushing, for two years.

A failed second test results in the water source being pulled from service until suitable corrective action occurs. This can include:

- Permanent removal from service
- Replacement of plumbing
- Replacement of the faucet.

We then test again to ensure the source is safe.

We have completed testing of all taps used for drinking or food preparation in our school over the last three years, as outlined in legislation. Whenever an exceedance was found in a tap, we took corrective action to ensure our water met safety standards for students and staff.

As a result, all taps and fountains used for drinking and food preparation in our schools have been tested and are considered safe for consumption.

Custodians at schools continue to perform water flushing based on the sample results from each school, consistent with regulatory requirements and on recommendations from our local Medical Officer of Health. This practice will continue to ensure student and staff safety. We extend our appreciation to our custodians in performing flushing procedures to support the health and safety of everyone in our schools.

If you have any further questions, please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Peter Mangold
Superintendent of Education