



December 4, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Testing of Drinking Water in Schools

The Langley School District is responsible for testing drinking water in its district facilities, in particular for the presence of lead. The District is compliant in its testing requirements and approved response plan with all governing bodies including Fraser Health and the Ministry of Education. Under the testing plan, districts are required to test one third of the schools considered at-risk (built pre-1990) every year. In the first year of testing, all results were found to be within acceptable limits for those schools tested (Willoughby, Alex Hope, James Kennedy, Langley Fine Arts, Fort Langley, North Otter, Coghlan, Shortreed, Noel Booth).

The second year of testing has now been completed and the results indicate that levels above the maximum allowable limits for the presence of lead for certain stagnant samples has been found in the following schools: Alice Brown, Blacklock, Fundamental Elementary, Glenwood, Douglas Park, Langley Meadows, Uplands. Secondary samples, after water has been flushed from the system for two minutes, show lead levels within allowable limits.

As per the approved response plan, these schools have all undergone a two-minute flush of the drinking water system to clear the stagnant water in the system. This response meets the requirements for the governing bodies as a short-term solution. Stagnant samples are samples taken after a prolonged period of disuse, such as a weekend period over 48 hours, where water is sitting in the pipes and has time to absorb contaminants. A two-minute flushing of the system resulted in samples within allowable limits. Affected schools will undergo a two-minute flushing every Monday. During the week, water is flowing through the system and lead levels do not exceed maximum acceptable limits. Testing of water samples will be repeated at affected schools in the coming weeks to monitor lead levels. Additionally, as a pro-active measure, remaining schools that have not yet been tested will be tested as soon as possible.

The long-term solution includes installing central filtered water bottle filling stations. Installation of central water bottle filling stations is currently underway and will be completed at the affected schools by January 8, 2018 when students return to school after winter break. Concerns or questions may be emailed to feedback@sd35.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gord Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools



March 8, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Testing of Drinking Water in Schools

The Langley School District has continued its commitment to test drinking water in district facilities, in particular for the presence of lead.

The 'first third' of schools tested under the 3-year plan all posted results within acceptable limits for lead (Willoughby, Alex Hope, James Kennedy, Langley Fine Arts, Fort Langley, North Otter, Coghlan, Shortreed, Noel Booth). In December 2017, under the testing requirements and approved response plan with governing bodies including Fraser Health and the Ministry of Education, testing continued of the 'second third' of those schools built pre-1990. Of the second group, levels above acceptable limits were found in the following schools: Alice Brown, Blacklock, Fundamental Elementary, Glenwood, Douglas Park, Langley Meadows and Uplands. Secondary samples, after water has been flushed from the system for two minutes, show lead levels within allowable limits. Initially, as per the approved response plan, these schools instituted a two-minute flush of the drinking water system to clear the stagnant water. Since that time the long-term solution of removing affected drinking fountains and installing filtered water bottle/drinking stations has been completed.

Upon discovery of levels above the acceptable limits in some tested schools in December 2017, the District chose to conduct tests on all remaining schools immediately rather than wait until the third year of the testing plan. Of the remaining schools tested, Brookwood Secondary and Langley Secondary were found to have above acceptable levels in stagnant water tests. The two-minute flushing procedure was instituted immediately until the replacement of affected fountains could be completed. Since that time installation of new fixtures and the addition of filters at Brookwood and Langley Secondary has been completed.

All Langley schools built before 1990 have now been tested for lead in the water. Those school fountains that were found to have above acceptable levels have all been removed and/or fitted with filtered water stations.

For more information and a list of testing results, please visit the District website at www.sd35.bc.ca under Our District > Administrative Departments > Facilities Maintenance and Transportation.

Sincerely,

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools