



February 24, 2016

Ref: 186335

All Superintendents
All Secretary-Treasurers

At the request of the Provincial Health Officer, I am writing to remind all school districts of the importance of ensuring water quality within all schools complies with Water Management Best Practices and the *Drinking Water Protection Act*.

While we have no evidence of children being adversely affected in BC, it is nonetheless important to reduce population lead exposure. The extent to which the potential for lead to enter the water supply varies depending on the type of water (soft water), acidity and length of exposure.

School Districts should work with local health authorities to establish a plan to evaluate water quality especially in schools built before the 1989 revision of the BC Plumbing Code restricting the use of lead and potable water lines, as well as to mitigate any risks identified. The plan should include:

1. Evaluating and prioritizing facilities based on age and water supply.
2. Establishing and carrying out testing of priority facilities.
3. Mitigating risks.
4. Regularly re-sampling to verify effectiveness.
5. Communicating findings.
6. Establishing a long-term management plan.

If elevated lead levels are found, a number of actions can be taken to mitigate risk. The most appropriate actions for your facilities will depend on a number of factors and should be discussed with your local drinking water officer

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Should you have questions, I am providing the following Health Authority Contacts:

Fraser Health:	1-604-587-3828 or 1-604-527-4806
Interior Health:	1-866-457-5648
Island Health:	1-866-665-6626
South Island	1-866-665-6626
Central Island	1-866-770-7798
North Island	1-877-887-8835
Northern Health:	1-250-565-2000
Vancouver Coastal Health:	1-604-675-3900 or 1-604-527-4893

Thank you to your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dave Byng
Deputy Minister