



Evergreen School Division

Box 1200 • Gimli, Manitoba • R0C 1B0 • Ph. (204) 642-6260 • Fax (204) 642-7273 • www.esd.ca

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Drinking Water Lead Sampling Information for Parents and Students

Health Canada released a new national guideline for lead in drinking water in March 2019. The new guideline lowered the allowable level for lead in drinking water from 0.01 mg/L (milligrams per litre) to 0.005 mg/L (milligrams per litre). The guideline also recommended testing drinking water at school taps and drinking water fountains.

In September 2020, the Office of the Auditor General released their report on the “Provincial Oversight of Drinking Water Safety.” The report recommends that the province require all schools and child care centres to promptly, and periodically thereafter, test for lead, and that the department of Conservation and Climate publicly report the results of these tests and corrective actions taken.

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, Evergreen School Division completed testing on all fixtures for lead in drinking water. 130 samples were taken, and 2 samples exceeded the recommended limit for lead. For those fixtures exceeding the new guideline levels for lead in drinking water, the division has removed the fixture entirely.

A summary of test results and the corrective actions to date are shown below:

School	Number of samples taken	Number of samples exceeding the guideline	Corrective actions
Arborg Collegiate Institute	11	1	Fixture removed
Arborg Early Middle School	17	0	
Dr. George Johnson Middle School	13	1	Fixture removed
Gimli High School	29	0	
Riverton Collegiate Institute	21	0	
Riverton Early Middle School	13	0	
Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School	15	0	
Winnipeg Beach School	11	0	

For further information about lead in drinking water, visit:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/rld_homechildcare.pdf

For more information on the health risks of lead and other sources of exposure to lead, visit the Manitoba Health and Seniors Care webpage at: <https://manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/lead.html>

For information on *Lead in Drinking Water: Schools, Child Care Centres and Large Buildings*, visit:

www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/rld_largebuildings.pdf

For health-related questions on lead, call Health Links Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257, or call your local public health office.