



**Turtle Mountain School Division**

435 Williams Avenue Box 280

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## Drinking Water Lead Sampling Information for Parents and Students Turtle Mountain School Division

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, and in consultation with the Manitoba Office of Drinking Water and Manitoba Health and Seniors Care, Turtle Mountain School Division has begun testing for lead in drinking water. To date, *166 samples have been taken, and 3 samples exceeded the recommended limit for lead.* For those fixtures exceeding the new guideline levels for lead in drinking water, the school division has either replaced the fixture, shut down those fountains or faucets, posted “do not drink” signage, or developed a daily flushing program.

A summary of test results and the corrective actions to date are listed below.

School	Total number samples taken	Number of sample locations exceeding the guideline to date	Corrective actions Taken
Killarney School	92	2	1 has been removed from service, 1 is being retested for accuracy
Boissevain School	65	0	
Minto School	9	1	no action needed-mechanical room

All tap water is safe for washing hands.

For further information on the School Division’s lead in drinking water testing program, please contact: Tyler Shiels, Maintenance Supervisor, [tshiels@tmsd.mb.ca](mailto:tshiels@tmsd.mb.ca)

For further information about lead in drinking water, visit: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking\\_water/rld\\_homechildcare.pdf](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>



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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](http://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 . *You can find your local public health office information at*

[www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html)