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Dear parents and guardians,

The Upper Grand District School Board has been testing for lead in school drinking water since 2007. Amendments to drinking water testing requirements in 2017 mandated that every drinking water fixture serving water to children with every school, private school and child care centre be sampled and tested for lead by 2022. The Ontario drinking water quality standard for lead is 10 micrograms per litre.

In this year's testing by the school board, two of the fixtures at our school failed the test. Both fixtures were immediately taken out of use and signage was posted. One of the fixtures was replaced and retested with good results and can now be used. The other fixture will be used for handwashing only. **All fixtures at the school are flushed daily**. It is important to note that when exceedances occur, the board must take immediate corrective action to protect children including following any instructions provided by the local medical officer of health.

If a flushed sample comes back with a higher than acceptable level of lead, the fixture that the water sample was taken from is immediately bagged so that no one is able to use it, and it remains off limits until the fixture is replaced and re-tested. All remaining fixtures are flushed daily and this activity is recorded. Only after additional sampling and testing has confirmed the corrective action is successful in reducing levels to below the Provincial Standards is the fixture made available.

Board staff are extremely diligent and follow the required procedures to the letter. Much of the work testing and replacing fixtures happened this summer prior to the start of the school year.

More information, and all of the results of water testing for lead in our schools, is posted online on the board website at www.ugdsb.ca/programs/environment/water-testing-for-lead/.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

C. Warren
Principal