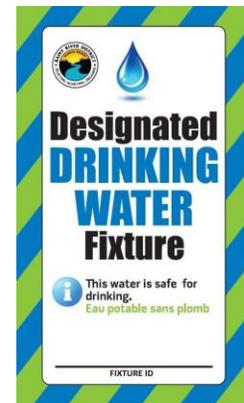


SAFE DRINKING WATER

Since 2007, the Ontario government has been requiring child care centres and schools to flush the plumbing in their facilities and test drinking water for lead. New amendments to Ontario regulation 243/07 took effect July 1, 2017 that require lead testing within these facilities for all designated fixtures used to provide drinking water and/or prepare food or drink for children under 18. The Ontario drinking water quality standard for lead is 10 micrograms per litre. This standard is based on a national guideline set by Health Canada.

The Rainy River District School Board has more than 630 fixtures. Of these fixtures, 172 are normally used to provide drinking water to students. One-third of designated fixtures at each school were tested last fall. The following fixtures have been identified as “designated drinking water fixtures” and identified with a green/blue sticker.

- all water fountains and water bottle filling stations;
- all fountains and sinks found in a kindergarten classroom;
- kitchen sinks found in school kitchens (not necessarily staff room kitchens);
- kitchen sinks in staff rooms and administration areas if they are used for preparing food for children or providing drinking water;
- kitchen sinks found in high school food labs for preparing food;
- any other fixtures that the school identifies that is used for providing drinking water to students.



All other fixtures in the school will be identified as “non-drinking water fixtures” by being labeled as “Do Not Drink - Safe for Hand Washing Only” and will NOT be used to provide drinking water to students. Principals, teachers, support staff and Child Care Supervisors and staff are aware of these protocols and will communicate them to students.

If a school gets a drinking water test result that is above the Provincial Standard for lead, the Board’s Facilities Department consults with the local health unit on corrective actions to be taken.

Water test results can be found on the Board’s website: www.rrdsb.com/departments/facilities

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school principal or Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations & Maintenance at 274-9855.