

Sample Letter To Parents

September XX, 2007

Dear Parent:

Recently all Ontario schools became part of a new, rigorous drinking water testing program. It enforces a very high international standard and is the toughest testing program in Canada.

I am writing to let you know that as a result of our most recent testing, our school is now temporarily using [bottled water/coolers] for drinking water instead of the usual drinking fountains. We have also installed special filters on taps that are used in areas where food is prepared. You may have noticed this yourself or heard about it from your child.

We are taking this precautionary step in response to a recent water test showing that the level of lead in our school's drinking water exceeded the strict standard set by the Ministry of the Environment.

Public health officials tell us that blood lead levels in Ontarians have been dropping dramatically over the last 30 years.

I want to assure you that we are working with the local medical officer of health to resolve this issue and protect our students. Together, we are making sure that our school is responding appropriately and taking all precautions for both students and staff.

Retesting of our water may show that the steps we are taking to return our water to the standard are working. In the meantime, our school will continue to use an alternative water supply for drinking and food preparation.

As we begin the school year, we want to make sure that all students, staff and parents are focused on student success. So if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me for more information. Or you can visit the Ministry of Environment website at www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater and click on "lead and drinking water."

Sincerely,

Mr./Mrs./Ms
Principal
XYZ School