

Ministry of
the Environment

Safe Drinking Water
Branch

19th floor
2 St. Clair Ave W
Toronto ON M4V 1L5

Ministère de
l'Environnement

Direction du contrôle de la qualité de
l'eau potable

19^e étage
2, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1L5



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To Schools Boards, Private School Operators and Day Nursery Operators:

In June 2007, the Ontario government announced that it was implementing recommendations made by the Drinking Water Advisory Council and advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Chief Drinking Water Inspector to expand water safety protections and reduce potential levels of lead intake especially for pregnant women and children six years of age and under. A new flushing and testing regulation, Schools, Private Schools, and Day Nurseries O. Reg. 243/07, came into effect on June 7, 2007 and requires schools, private schools and day nursery operators to flush their facility's plumbing, to conduct annual sampling and testing for lead in some cases, to undertake corrective actions where needed, and to keep appropriate records related to flushing and sampling activities.

To enhance your understanding of your obligations under this new regulation, the Ministry of the Environment is pleased to provide you with the attached guide entitled *Flushing and Testing for Lead in Drinking Water* as well as two "at-a-glance" posters on flushing and sampling steps. The guide provides detailed information on such actions as how to take a proper drinking water sample for lead (page 9 of the guide), how to complete related forms (pages 8-9 for the Laboratory Services Notification form and pages 13-14 for the Lead Exceedance Notification form) and steps to follow if you are directed to take a re-sample of your facility's drinking water (page 14-15). The posters have been developed as a quick reference tool to assist you when conducting your flushing and sampling activities.

In addition, you will find included in this package a fact sheet that can be shared with parents that will help answer some of their questions about lead and drinking water.

To get additional copies of these information products:

- Visit the Drinking Water Ontario website at www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater to download a copy, or
- Contact the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923.

The Drinking Water Ontario website "Lead and Drinking Water" page also has other O. Reg. 243/07 tools and guidance material developed to assist schools, private schools and day nurseries operators in meeting compliance with O. Reg. 243/07.

If you have any questions or need further information about O. Reg. 243/07 and your responsibilities, please contact the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923, or in Toronto at 416-325-4000.

For assistance in completing Ministry of the Environment forms related to O. Reg. 243/07, such as the Laboratory Services Notification or the Lead Exceedance Notification forms, contact the Drinking Water Registration Help Desk at 1-866-793-2588 to speak directly to a drinking water registration and compliance staff person.

The Ministry of the Environment is interested to hear your comments on the enclosed materials and your suggestions for future guidance material to help you meet your obligations under O. Reg. 243/07. If you would like to share your ideas, send an e-mail to drinking.water@ontario.ca.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Nieweglowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent than the last name "Nieweglowski".

Paul Nieweglowski
Deputy Chief Drinking Water Inspector
Director, Safe Drinking Water Branch
Drinking Water Management Division
Ministry of the Environment

Attachments