

Dear Students and Families,

CCRCE has a drinking water quality monitoring and testing program in place that includes regular bacterial and chemical analysis testing. In 2019, Health Canada published new health-based guidelines for lead and copper in drinking water. We always put student and staff safety first and comply with regulations and standards. In addition to our regular testing, there is now a new water testing protocol for lead and copper outlined by Department of Environment for Nova Scotia schools.

On December 19, the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development announced that public schools across the province that have not been tested yet will be provided with alternate drinking water. This will be available at your school starting in January 2020. Schools that were tested in the fall and required alternative sources of water have already been supplied with water and this will continue as needed.

We don't want our staff and families to have to worry about the quality of drinking water in their schools. We're not going to have specific testing information for all schools until the weather warms up for testing. Testing will resume in schools in Spring 2020. We're erring on the side of caution and providing water to those schools that have yet to be tested.

Your school has not yet been tested yet and will be tested in the spring of 2020. Part of the Department of Environment protocol relies on the groundwater being at a certain temperature and therefore testing cannot take place in the winter months. Testing can only happen in warmer weather.

Until testing can take place, students and staff will not be able to access drinking water fountains and taps. Instead, your school will be provided with alternate water for drinking and cooking for the rest of the school year or until we can confirm with test results the water is within acceptable levels.

To ensure we are being environmentally friendly, we encourage families to send a water bottle or reusable cup to school with their child in the new year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your principal.

Sincerely,

Herb Steeves
Director of Operations
Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education