

## **FLUSHING AND TESTING OF WATER SYSTEMS POLICY**

August 2022

Provincewide requirements for the flushing and testing of water systems in day nurseries as set out in Ontario Regulation 243/07 – Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 – Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries was filed June 7/07. The goal of the new regulation is to provide increased protection for children, especially children age six and under, who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of lead.

### **KEY PROVISIONS OF THE REGULATION ARE:**

#### **Daily/Weekly Flushing**

- Plumbing must be flushed everyday that a day nursery is open if the day nursery is housed in a facility where all or part of the construction of the building was completed before January 1, 1990.
- The last cold water tap on each branch or run of plumbing must be opened and allowed to run for at least 5 minutes. If there is a filter or other water treatment device on this tap, and it can be bypassed, the filter must be bypassed during the 5 minute flush.
- Following the 5 minute flush, all taps and drinking water fountains that are likely to be used for human consumption or food preparation must be flushed for at least 10 seconds.
- If a tap or water fountain that is turned on for flushing has an aerator, the aerator must not be removed.
- If a filter or other device that treats water is installed on or near the tap, and it is practicable to bypass the filter or other device without removing it, the filter or other device must be bypassed during the period that the cold water is turned on.
- A record shall be kept of the date and time of every required flushing and the name of the person who performed the flushing.

#### **Annual Sampling/Testing**

- At every day nursery located in buildings constructed before 1990, annual testing of water samples must be taken between May 1st and October 31st .
- The annual sample of water must be submitted to a licensed laboratory to be tested for lead.
  - Under O. Regulation 243/07, the operator must ensure that written notice of the identity of the laboratory that will be conducting the test for lead is completed and submitted prior to laboratory testing.
- The operator of the day nursery is to ensure that two one litre samples of cold water are taken from a tap that is commonly used to provide water for human consumption.
- Both samples must be taken from the same tap.
- The first sample must be taken after the longest period when the plumbing is not used and before the plumbing is flushed.
- Before taking the second sample, the tap must be turned on for at least 5 minutes then turned off and left unused for a period of at least 30 but not more than 35 minutes.