



District of Wells

April 8, 2021

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For Immediate Release

District of Wells Water Advisory No. 2

Earlier this year the District of Wells became aware of a potential lead contamination of its water supply system and has been working closely with Northern Health to ensure the health and safety of the community.

*“Under the **Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA)**, the drinking water supply systems in BC are responsible to monitor water they deliver to verify it is within the acceptable limits for Lead and other metals.”¹*

Under the provincial guidelines the District of Wells has recently implemented a monitoring program identified as Tier 1 sampling at various sampling points around town to identify if there is a corrosivity concern. The results of the sampling have identified that there are some elevated lead levels that exceeded the maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) stipulated in the Guidelines for the Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

In accordance to the provincial guidelines¹ and in discussion with Northern Health the next step is to undertake Tier 2 sampling program. This program will identify where the lead concerns are originating from. Lead can leach into the water from a variety of sources whether this is a plumbing fixture, solder joints, lead service lines, water distribution piping etc. The results of the Tier 2 sampling program will assist the District in identifying the sources or location of the lead contamination as well as what mitigative measure will need to be taken to achieve lead levels in the water below the MAC.

Until further notice: Northern Health recommends that those at highest risk of harm from exposure to lead in drinking water (pregnant women, infants and children) use alternate sources of drinking water until additional information is available. In certain situations, flushing of your waterlines has been shown to reduce the levels of lead in drinking water. Flushing involves running your cold water tap until it is cold (1-3 minutes). (Please do not run your taps non-stop all day long as that will result in a shortage of water supply)

The District is also willing to provide potable water in the interim to community residents and businesses. 5-gallon jugs of bottled water will be available to anyone in the community who wishes. Please contact the District office if you would like to receive bottled water.

Upon completion of the Tier 2 sampling program, Northern Health and the District of Wells will notify the community of the results and any long-term mitigation measures that are recommended.

For information regarding lead contaminates please reference:

https://www.northernhealth.ca/sites/northern_health/files/services/environmentalhealth/documents/northern-health-bulletin-lead.pdf

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¹ Guidelines on Evaluating and Mitigating Lead in Drinking Water Supplies, Schools, Daycares and Other Buildings, April 2019, Health Protection Branch.