

## EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CIRCULAR

**Date:** June 07, 2023

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** ELCC-2023-08

**To:** All licensed family and group child care homes

**Subject:** Residential Lead Monitoring Program

**Effective Date:** Not applicable

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<b>Type:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> All Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Required
	<input type="checkbox"/> Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Centres	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Schools	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family/Group Homes	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subsidy		

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This circular is to advise all licensed family/group child care homes about the *Residential Lead Monitoring Program*, which is being phased in across Manitoba.

In March 2019, Health Canada lowered the national guideline for lead in drinking water from a maximum acceptable concentration of 0.01 milligrams per litre (mg/L) to 0.005 mg/L. Manitoba adopted this new guideline as a drinking water quality standard in 2020 and in response has provided various resources and programs to support the reduction efforts of lead in drinking water across the province.

To help municipalities implement Health Canada’s new, more stringent national guideline on lead in drinking water, the Province has established the *Residential Lead Monitoring Program*, which is being phased in across Manitoba.

Communities currently implementing the program will make a public request for volunteers to have the drinking water in their home tested for lead. Home-based child care providers are prioritized for this free testing. Over the past year, Early Learning and Child Care has sent letters to the licensed homes in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, Morden and Thompson on behalf of the community inviting them to access this free water testing.

When it is available in your community, home-based child care providers are encouraged to participate the *Residential Lead Monitoring Program*.

Please note, if you have received the Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant, funds from this grant may be used to cover costs incurred for lead remediation. For more information, see:

[ELCC-2023-02- Circular - Quality Enhancement Grants \(Homes\)](#) and [ELCC-2023-02 – Frequently Asked Questions - Quality and Enhancement Grants \(Homes\)](#) .

Visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/lead/index.html> for information on the *Residential Lead Monitoring Program* and actions being taken by municipalities. For further information, see visit: [Lead in Drinking Water: Information for Manitoba Homeowners and Home-based Child Care Providers \(gov.mb.ca\)](#).

Thank you for your diligence and partnership in protecting our children from the risks of exposure to lead in drinking water.