



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref.: EDB/(SDU)2/ADM/62 pt (2)
來函檔號 Your Ref.:

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27 August 2015

To: Supervisors/ Principals of all Schools

Dear Supervisor/ Principal,

Coping with Lead in Drinking Water Issues

The Government is highly concerned about the incident of lead in drinking water at public housing estates as well as schools and has set up a Task Force to investigate the cause of excessive lead content in drinking water. The Education Bureau (EDB) will work closely with professional departments and take appropriate follow-up actions according to the investigation result of the Task Force.

Pending outcome of the study of the Task Force on the cause of excessive lead content in drinking water, the Inter-Bureau/Departmental meeting held today, after considering the advice of professional departments, has come to a view that operators of the facilities built in or after 2005, the users of which are mainly children below six and users who need long-term stay in the facilities and consume drinking water, should consider installation of filters which can reduce the lead content in water.

In this connection, EDB advises operators of kindergartens to arrange procurement and installation of filters which can reduce the lead content in water as soon as practicable in order to ease the worries of parents. The Government Logistics Department is also making arrangement to assist kindergartens and schools in need (including schools built before 2005 and those non-Government built schools completed in or after 2005) for bulk purchase of filters. Details will be announced as soon as possible. In operating the filters, schools should take note of the advice from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health and observe the manufacturer's operational conditions for proper installation and maintenance, as well as timely change of cartridges and core parts of the filters.

EDB will also install filters for public sector schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools built by the Government in 2005 or after by phases as soon as possible. We will contact relevant schools for necessary arrangements.

The CHP has provided health advice to schools for reducing lead exposure. Schools can make reference to the letter issued by EDB on 21 August for necessary arrangements, including encourage students to bring their own drinking water. Before installation of the filters, schools can provide bottled water to students and teaching staff on a need basis. School can get access to the aforesaid guidelines, advice and the latest information via the following path:

EDB Homepage (www.edb.gov.hk) > School Administration and Management > Administration > About School > Reducing Lead Exposure > Advice

EDB has set up an enquiry hotline (Hotline number: 3698 4125) for secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens. School can also contact respective Senior School Development Officer or Senior Service Officer.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms S W WONG)

for Secretary for Education