

Backflow Incident from the Heating System (Oakville, Ontario, Canada, April 2011):

Halton Region working with Halton District School Board to ensure safety of school's water system

(Release Date: Apr 21, 2011)

Halton Region was advised by the Halton District School Board that as a result of internal maintenance on the heating system at Iroquois Ridge High School, which was carried out on Wednesday, chemicals used in the cleaning process entered the potable water system of the school. As a result the School Board closed the school for Thursday, April 21. The school's potable water system is being flushed and tested. The on-site day care is open and using bottled water.

The risk of illness to students, staff and visitors to the school is considered low because the contamination event appeared to have occurred at school-closing time and the cleaning solution was significantly diluted.

“While the risk is considered low, possible health effects, which would have already occurred on Wednesday, April 20, could have included mild irritation of the eyes and skin and gastric discomfort. There are no long-term health affects expected,” said Dr. Monir Taha, Halton Region’s Associate Medical Officer of Health.

Halton Region’s Public Works Department is confident that the quality of the drinking water to residents in the area was not compromised.