



XXXX: Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water (A/P)

Approved: 25 01 14

BACKGROUND

This procedure provides minimum requirements for testing lead content in drinking water of school facilities, reporting the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce risks to students and staff.

This policy specifically addresses lead content in drinking water. The Ministry of Education and Child Care (“the Ministry”) expects school districts to mitigate other issues that affect the quality of water as prescribed under applicable provincial and federal legislation.

REQUIREMENTS

The School District must conduct lead content testing in drinking water if the facility is being regularly utilized by students and/or staff. The School District may also disable water sources and systems to eliminate the risk of lead exposure. In this case, testing is no longer required.

The School District must complete lead content testing on all school facilities once every 3 years. Therefore, a minimum of 1/3 (33%) of the School District facilities must be tested each year.

Mitigation Strategies

If sample results reveal lead levels above the maximum allowable concentration as stated from the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality by Health Canada, the School District must commence a mitigation strategy.

Mitigation solutions may include:

1. Flushing regimes
2. Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage
3. Installation of filtration systems
4. Plumbing upgrades
5. Or other steps that result in reducing the exposure to acceptable levels

COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Should testing result in elevated levels of lead, the School District must immediately inform the Ministry and the Regional Health Authority of the issue. The Director of Operations will conduct a walkthrough of facilities with Admin, identifying which sources have failed.

The School District will communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water with parents, students, staff and the public by describing the following:

1. Rationale for testing lead in drinking water
2. Identify partnerships with the Regional Health Authority



3. State results of sampling
4. Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered by the Board
5. Provide contact information for the School District and the Regional Health Authority for parents, students, and staff to request further information.

The School District must submit all their testing results annually to the Ministry of Education, using the “Report of Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water of School Facilities” spreadsheet.

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

The Ministry of Education and Child Care
School District #81 Policy 3510: Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water of School Facilities