



Potable Water Testing Policy

Rationale

As required by the Ministry of Education, it is the responsibility of Sacred Heart School to test its drinking water to ensure that its quality complies with water management best practices and the Drinking Water Protection Act. The drinking water supply at Sacred Heart School will be tested every three (3) years by an accredited testing lab to ensure that it is safe and free of lead and other contaminants.

Procedure

The Ministry of Education requires that a school have the following process in place to test its drinking water:

- Contact the nominated testing lab to request bottles for water samples collection together with specific instructions on how to collect the samples.
- Samples should be dispatched to lab immediately upon collection.

Water test results will be communicated to the Ministry of Education and the local Health Authority. If the sample results reveal lead levels exceeding a concentration of 0.005 mg/L, the school, in consultation with the local Health Authority, will undertake mitigation strategies which may include:

- Flushing regimes
- Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage
- Installation of filtration systems
- Plumbing upgrades
- Or other steps that result in reducing the exposure to lead to acceptable levels

If testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level (defined as lead levels not exceeding a concentration of 0.005 mg/L), the school will:

- a. Immediately inform the Independent Schools Branch of the issue
- b. Work collaboratively with the local Health Authority to communicate the results of the tests, the lead content found in drinking water to parents, students and staff by describing the following:
 - rationale for testing lead in drinking water,
 - identify partnership with the local Health Authority to work toward a solution,
 - the results of the sampling,
 - identify mitigation strategies implemented or being consider by the authority, and
 - provide contact information for the authority and the Regional Health Authority for parents, students and staff to request further information.



Ministry of Education Reporting

Schools are to report their results directly to the Ministry of Education using the following link:

<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/education-training/indy-web-form/>