

POLICY

POLICY FOR TESTING LEAD CONTENT IN DRINKING WATER OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Policy in full

All water suppliers in the province are required to test their water regularly. This includes small private systems (such as restaurants), cooperatively owned systems (such as strata properties), and larger municipal systems owned by local governments.

School districts are responsible for ensuring the quality of water within their systems and plumbing.

The Ministry is responsible to provide oversight to ensure public schools are safe and well-functioning for students and staff across the province. As such, the Ministry has established minimum requirements for lead testing in schools built prior to 1990; due to the use of lead in plumbing materials.

School districts must consult with their Regional Health Authority to develop a water quality lead testing program for their school facilities that would outline the following;

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Communication and Reporting Requirements

Should testing result in elevated levels of lead, the school district must immediately inform the Ministry of the issue.

School districts shall collaboratively work with their Regional Health Authority to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water with parents, students and staff by describing the following;

- Rationale for testing lead in drinking water
- Identify partnership with the Regional Health Authority in solutioning
- State results of sampling
- Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being consider by the Board
- Provide contact information for the school district and the Regional Health Authority for parents, students and staff to request further information

School districts must submit all of their testing results annually to the Ministry by March 30th using the “Report for Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water of School Facilities” spreadsheet, as provided.

Links to related policies

N/A

Resources - Links to program areas, manuals, etc.

[Investigating Elevated Copper and Lead Levels In School Drinking Water](#)

[Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality - Summary Table](#)

[Minimizing Exposure to Lead from Drinking Water Distribution Systems](#)

[Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality: Guideline Technical Document – Lead](#)

[Guidance on Controlling Corrosion in Drinking Water Distribution Systems](#)

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