



Rationale

Learning requires a safe and healthy environment.

Policy

Schools must provide safe drinking water for staff and students in their schools.

Procedure

Risk Assessment

All plumbing systems that provide drinking water in school facilities shall be tested for lead content.

Water Testing Requirement

Schools will have their water tested annually for lead content(mg/L) by a qualified laboratory and submit their results to the CISPG office by the 31st of October each year.

Mitigation Strategies

If sample results reveal lead levels above the maximum acceptable concentration of 0.005 mg/L The school in consultation with their Regional Health Authority must commence daily flushing immediately or deactivate and place a "Not in Use" sign on the water source. Mitigation solutions may include;

1. Flushing regimes
2. Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage
3. Installation of filtration systems
4. Plumbing upgrades. When feasible
5. Providing bottled water for the interim in some cases

Communication and Reporting Requirements

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

- a. Immediately inform the Independent Schools Branch of the issue. Ongoing compliance with this policy will be confirmed during monitoring visits and external evaluations.
- b. Schools 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
 - State results of sampling
 - Identify mitigation strategies implemented
 - Provide contact information for the Regional Health Authority for parents, students and staff to request further information

NOTE: The current Canadian guideline for lead in drinking water is a maximum acceptable concentration of 0.005mg/L (5quarts per billion) in drinking water.

References:	Date: August 2023
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