

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

POLICY NAME: Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water	POLICY NUMBER: 1.1.5	CATEGORY: Administration
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE: Vice President/Principal	APPROVAL AUTHORITY: Executive Council	EFFECTIVE DATE: November 24, 2021
NEXT FULL REVIEW DATE: November 23, 2026	REVISED:	REPLACES: Safe Drinking Water (May 2017)

Purpose

This policy provides minimum requirements for testing lead content in the drinking water of Coquitlam College (the College), reporting of the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students and staff.

Scope

This policy specifically addresses lead content in drinking water. The Ministry expects the College to mitigate other issues that affect the quality of water as prescribed under applicable provincial and federal legislation.

Policy Statements

1. The College is responsible for ensuring the quality of water within their systems and plumbing.
2. The College will test lead content in the drinking water every three years with an environmental laboratory water testing company.
3. The College will continue regular contact with the City of Coquitlam about water safety and any changes to the water supply.
4. The lead content results will be posted on the website.

Procedures

Risk Assessment

5. The Facility Supervisor has inventory of the age of the building, historical testing results and recent improvements.
6. This information will indicate which services are required to be tested for lead content in the drinking water.
7. All plumbing systems that provide drinking water in the College will be tested for lead content.

Water Testing Requirement

8. The College will work with the Fraser Health Authority to determine a testing program for the College.

9. The testing procedure and amount of samples taken at the College shall be determined in collaboration with the Fraser Health Authority, and be based on risk.
10. The College will conduct lead testing in drinking water that is being regularly used by students and/or staff.

Mitigation Strategies

11. If sample results reveal lead levels above the maximum acceptable concentration of 0.005 mg/L as stated from the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality by Health Canada, the College in consultation with the Fraser Health Authority must commence daily flushing immediately or deactivate and place a “Not in Use” sign on the water source.
12. Mitigation solution may include:
 - i. Flushing regimes
 - ii. Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage
 - iii. Installation of filtration systems
 - iv. Plumbing upgrades
 - v. Or other steps that result in reducing the exposure to lead to acceptable levels

Communication and Reporting Requirements

13. The Facility Supervisor will meet with the Vice President/Principal on regular occasions to discuss any changes to the building and to the water supply.
14. The Facility Supervisor will confirm with the Vice President/Principal when the required testing will take place and provide the results.
15. The College will immediately inform the Ministry should test results have elevated levels of lead.
16. The College will collaboratively work with the Fraser Health Authority to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water with parents, students and staff by describing the following:
 - i. Rationale for testing lead in drinking water
 - ii. Identify partnership with the Fraser Health Authority in solutioning
 - iii. State results of sampling
 - iv. Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered by the College
 - v. Provide contact information for the College and the Fraser Health Authority for parents, student and staff to request further information.

Related Documents

Government of Canada Guidelines Drinking Water Quality
Government of Canada Drinking Water Quality: Guideline Technical Document – Lead
Government of Canada Water Talk – Lead in drinking water
Government of Canada Guidance on Controlling Corrosion in Drinking Water Distribution