Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water

Number:	4.1.2
Responsible Executive:	Principal
Approval Authority:	School Authority
Effective Date:	October 23, 2024
Next Review Date:	October 23, 2029
Revised Date:	
Category:	High School

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 of Education and Childcare expects the College to mitigate other issues that affect the quality of water as prescribed under applicable provincial and federal legislation, regulations and guidelines.

POLICY STATEMENTS

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

PROCEDURES

Risk Assessment

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

Water Testing Requirement

9. The College will work with the Vancouver Coastal Health to determine a testing program for the College.

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

Mitigation Strategies

12. 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 Vancouver Coastal Health must commence daily flushing immediately or deactivate and place a "Not in Use" sign on the water source.
13. 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

14. The Facility Operations Manager will meet with the President or designate on regular occasions to discuss any changes to the building and to the water supply.
15. The Facility Operations Manager will confirm with the President or designate when the required testing will take place and provide the results.
16. The College will immediately inform the Ministry of Education and Childcare should test results have elevated levels of lead.
17. The College will collaboratively work with Vancouver Coastal Health 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 Vancouver Coastal Health 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 Vancouver Coastal Health for parents, student and staff to request further information.

RELATED RESOURCES

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