



Potable Water Testing Policy

Rationale

Regular testing of drinking water for lead and other contaminants is a critical component of proactive water management. By maintaining strict testing intervals, Sacred Heart School ensures full compliance with provincial health standards, minimizes potential health risks to developing children, and maintains a safe learning environment for the entire school community.

Policy

Sacred Heart School is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and clean environment for all students, staff, and visitors. In compliance with the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care requirements, CISVA policies, and the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, the school will maintain a rigorous potable water testing program. Sacred Heart School will ensure all drinking water sources are tested for lead and other contaminants at least once every three (3) years by an accredited laboratory, and will take immediate mitigative action and communicate transparently with the school community should any elevated levels be detected.

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 sample collection, together with specific instructions on how to collect the samples.
- Samples should be dispatched to the 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
- 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:

1. Immediately inform the Independent Schools Branch of the issue
2. 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:
 - a. rationale for testing lead in drinking water,
 - b. identify partnership with the local Health Authority to work toward a solution,
 - c. the results of the sampling,
 - d. identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered 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/>