

St. Francis de Sales Drinking Water Testing Policy

SFDS School will test drinking water every three years. We will contact our local health authority to ensure we are meeting all testing requirements.

We are responsible for ensuring the overall safety of our facilities, including the quality of drinking water within our systems and plumbing. We will comply with the enactments of British Columbia, including those relating to health, safety, and water quality.

Procedures related to policy

We have consulted with the appropriate Health Authority (CARO Analytical Services) to develop a water quality lead testing program for drinking water in our school facilities that outlines the following;

1. Risk assessment
2. Water testing
3. Communication plan
4. Mitigation strategies

Water Testing Requirement

Initially, all outlets that provide drinking water in school facilities should be tested for lead content by December 15, 2017. The Ministry of Education will be monitoring compliance with this requirement. It is the Ministry of Education's expectation that authorities will complete lead content testing on all school facilities once every 3 years. As a best practice, annual testing is recommended on buildings built before 1950.

(Authorities are to work with the appropriate Health Authority to determine a testing program for their school facilities. The testing procedure and amount of samples taken at each facility shall be determined in consultation with the Health Authority. All test results must be shared with the Health Authority.)

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Mitigation Strategies

If sample results reveal lead levels exceed concentration of 0.010 mg/L (based on maximum allowable concentration--[Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality](#) by Health Canada), SFDS School, in consultation with the appropriate Health Authority, will undertake mitigation strategies which may include:

1. Flushing regimes
2. Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage
3. Installation of filtration systems

4. Plumbing upgrades
5. Or other steps that result in reducing the exposure to lead to acceptable levels

Communication and Reporting Requirements

In the event that testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level, SFDS School will:

- 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. Work collaboratively with the appropriate Health Authority to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water to parents, students and staff by describing the following:
 - o rationale for testing lead in drinking water,
 - o identify partnership with the Health Authority to work toward a solution,
 - o state results of sampling,
 - o identify mitigation strategies implemented or being consider by the authority, and
 - o provide contact information for the authority and the Regional Health Authority for parents, students and staff to request further information.

Testing results will be recorded by using the [Ministry of Education's Independent Schools Drinking Water Reporting Tool](#) and updated as part of the ongoing testing cycle outlined above.

We will report our results every three years using the webform at:
<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/education-training/indy-web-form/>

(In accordance with the Ministry's water testing policy for independent schools(<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/legislation-policy/independent-schools/testing-lead-content-in-drinking-water>), we only need to see the test results for a school if its tests show lead concentrations above the maximum allowable limit.)