

Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water of Independent School Facilities Effective January 1, 2017

Summary

- BC government policy requires MRCS to test the lead content in drinking water.
- MRCS now has designated drinking water sources with appropriate signage.
- Designated drinking stations have a daily routine to ensure they are safe to drink at any time without hesitation.
- All remaining taps in our school are safe to drink from *if they have been flushed using the cold water tap for a minimum of two minutes.*

Designated Drinking Water Sources

- All three water fountains
 - Gym hallway
 - Elementary hallway
 - High school hallway
- Kitchen
- Learning Commons
- Kindergarten – Room #5
- Annex Room – Room #11
- Grade 2W – Room #8
- Art – Room #20
- Science Lab – *front sink only* – Room #23
- Charlong Classroom – Room #24
- Band – Portable #2
- Grade 6/7 Brown/Roda – Portable #1

Rationale for Testing Lead in Drinking Water

- Student health and safety is a concern shared by all parties in the K-12 education system. This policy provides minimum requirements for testing lead content in drinking water of school facilities, reporting of the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students and staff.

Province of BC Policy

- Independent schools are required to test for lead content in drinking water.
- If sample results reveal lead levels exceeding 0.010 mg/L, the independent school, in consultation with the Health Authority, should undertake mitigation strategies.
- Mitigation strategies include water flushing regimes, filter installations, plumbing upgrades, or deactivation of water sources with supplemental signage.

Province of BC Policy (continued)

- If testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level, the independent school authority must:
 - Inform the Independent Schools branch,
 - Work with the appropriate Health Authority,
 - Communicate results of the testing and mitigation strategies with parents, students and staff.

Partnership with Health Authority

- MRCS is working with the Drinking Water Program, Fraser Health Authority.

Results of Sampling

- 30 samples were tested. Six samples tested slightly above 0.010 mg/L.
- The full analytical report is available at the school office.

Mitigation Strategies

MRCS is undertaking the following mitigation strategies:

- Designation of water sources approved for drinking
 - Designations are based on usage and accessibility. Designated taps either have acceptable “standing water” lead levels (where water has not been run for 6+ hours prior) or are flushed for two minutes every morning before school starts.
- Flushing Regimes
 - Water sources designated for drinking are flushed for two minutes every morning before school starts.
 - **All taps in our school are safe to drink from *if they have been flushed using the cold water tap for a minimum of two minutes.***
- Supplemental signage
 - Water sources not designated for drinking have signage stating, “Not for Drinking.”
Please note: All taps in our school are safe to drink from *if they have been flushed using the cold water tap for a minimum of two minutes.*

Health Authority Contact Information

- Fraser Health Drinking Water Program
Environmental Health Services
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