



WATER TESTING POLICY

Policy Type: Administrative
Applies To: All Staff, Students
Approved By: Lead Principal
Policy Reviewed: every 2 years
Adopted: 2017
Revisions: 2021, 2024

PURPOSE:

Student health and safety is a concern shared by Maple Ridge Christian School. This policy provides minimum requirements for testing lead content in drinking water of MRCS, reporting the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students and staff.

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURES:

MRCS is responsible for ensuring the overall safety of the facilities, including, the quality of drinking water within the systems and plumbing. MRCS will comply with the enactments of British Columbia, including those related to health, safety, and water quality.

MRCS will work with appropriate health authorities to develop a water quality lead testing program for drinking water at MRCS that will outline the following:

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

RISK ASSESSMENT: It is prudent that all drinking water sites at MRCS be tested and evaluated for lead content, to ensure they fall at or below the current Provincial and Federal guidelines (0.005mg/l)



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WATER TESTING: MRCS will work with the Regional Health Authority to determine a testing program for the school. All test results will be shared with the Health Authority. As per the Ministry of Education, MRCS will complete lead content testing once every 3 years.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES: If sample results reveal lead levels exceed the Maximum Allowable Concentration of Lead, as set out by Health Canada in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, MRCS, in consultation with the 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. 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, MRCS must:

- a. Immediately inform the Independent School Branch of the issue. Ongoing compliance with this policy will be confirmed during monitoring visits and external evaluations.
- b. Work collaboratively with the 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 for being considered by the Authority, and
 - o Provide contact information for the authority and the Health Authority for parents, students and staff to request further information



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Ongoing compliance with the policy will be confirmed during monitoring visits and external evaluations by the Ministry for independent schools.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

REFERENCES:

Health Canada, [Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality](#)

Government of Canada - [Lead Information Package](#)