



**712 WATER TESTING**

**Introduction**

Schools in British Columbia must test for lead content in drinking water in their school facilities to ensure quality meets established guidelines under applicable provincial and federal legislation, and report results annually to the Ministry of Education (Ministry).

Schools must take reasonable steps necessary to resolve elevated lead levels that are outside established guidelines on any drinking water quality test results.

**Details**

Water is tested from all drinking water sources in the school. If sample results reveal lead levels above the maximum allowable concentration of 0.010 mg/L as stated in the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality by Health Canada*, the school, in consultation with the Interior Health Authority, will commence daily flushing immediately, or deactivate and place a “Not in Use” sign on the drinking water source. A “Not-Potable” sign will be placed above all other water sources in the school.

Mitigation solutions may include:

Flushing regimes of the water sources as in Step One of the Testing Procedure

Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage

Installation of filtration systems

Plumbing upgrades

Or other steps that result in reducing the exposure to lead to acceptable levels

Communication and Reporting Requirements

Should testing result in elevated levels of lead, the school will immediately inform the Ministry of the issue and will work with the Interior Health Authority to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water with parents, students and staff by describing the following:

Rationale for testing lead in drinking water

Identify partnership with the Interior Health Authority in actively seeking solutions

State results of the particular sampling

Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being consider by the Board

Provide contact information for the school and the Interior Health Authority

Date Agreed: Oct 30, 2017

Date Amended: