



NAME: 04.20 DRINKING WATER TESTING POLICY	VERSION: 1
ADOPTED: MAY 27, 2019	REVIEW: 2022

PREAMBLE

Drinking water testing has established that the drinking water at Richmond Christian School is safe and well within guidelines for acceptable lead levels. Richmond Christian School tests for lead content in the school drinking water to ensure it meets provincial requirements established by the Ministry of Health, such as the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality for lead.

RCS will take reasonable and prompt steps to resolve elevated lead levels that are outside established guidelines on any drinking water quality test results, should future tests indicate elevated levels.

RCS will test the school drinking water according to accepted testing guidelines once every three years. Tests will be completed by a certified lab. All tests are shared with Vancouver Coastal Health.

RATIONALE OF POLICY

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 student and staff.

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). RCS, in consultation with the Vancouver Coastal Health, 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, Richmond Christian School will:

1. Immediately inform the Independent Schools Branch of the issue. Ongoing compliance with this policy will be confirmed during work monitoring visits and external evaluations.
2. Work collaboratively with RCS to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water to parents, students and staff by describing the following:
 - 2.1. Rationale for testing lead in drinking water
 - 2.2. Identify partnership with RCS to work toward a solution
 - 2.3. State results of sampling.
 - 2.4. Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered by RCS and
 - 2.5. Provide contact information for RCS and the Vancouver Coastal Health for parents, students and staff to request further information.

Ongoing compliance with this policy will be confirmed during monitoring visits and external evaluations by the Ministry of Education. An online reporting tool will be developed by the Ministry for independent school's use beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.