

DRINKING WATER TESTING POLICY

Kimberley Independent School

Kimberley Independent 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.

- Independent schools are responsible for ensuring the quality of water within their systems and plumbing.
- Kimberley Independent School in collaboration with the established protocols from VIHA, Environmental Health Officer, must ensure the maximum acceptable Lead concentration in drinking water sources are met.
- Student health and safety is a priority shared by all stakeholders at Kimberley Independent School (i.e. Board, faculty, students, and parents).

Designated Drinking Water Sources

- Water Fountains in main hallway
- Staffroom fountain

Current Requirements for Lead Minimums

- All designated drinking water sources are tested every three years.
- The maximum acceptable concentration for lead in drinking water at the tap is currently at 0.010 mg/L.
- All designated drinking water sources MUST meet the established lead maximum on “first draw”.
- As of October 25, 2021, and with the approval of Canada Health, the new standard for lead content is 0.005 mg/L.

Risk Assessment/history

- Water testing suggest that we should not use building taps for regular consumption.
- With new filtration system and water fountains the current Risk Assessment is low.

Mitigation Strategies

- If sample results reveal lead levels exceed concentration of 0.005 mg/L (based on maximum allowable concentration--Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality by Health Canada), Kimberley Independent School, in consultation with the appropriate Health Authority, will undertake mitigation strategies which may include:

1. Flushing regimes

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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

Water Testing Protocol

- All testing must be completed using professional test labs

Communication Plan

- Should drinking water be identified through sampling as unfit for consumption, the following protocol is followed (including boil water advisories).
 - All staff announcements – verbal and email.
 - Water sources identified with signage "Not for Drinking."
 - Drinking fountains covered.
 - Email home to parents identifying the problem and suggesting children come to school with filled water bottles from home.
- When the school is testing for water safety, the following protocol to inform the school community will be employed.
 - Email communication to all stakeholders stating:
 - The rationale for testing Lead in drinking water.
 - Outline the results of water sampling.
 - Report on the mitigation strategies implemented.
 - Provide links for further information.
 - Provide contact information to VIHA.

Reporting

- Report all sampling and test results to Louisa Neufeld.
- Report annually to the Ministry of Education

In the event that testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level, Kimberley Independent 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:
 - rationale for testing lead in drinking water, to identify partnership with the Health Authority to work toward a solution,
 - state results of sampling,
 - identify mitigation strategies implemented or being consider by

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the authority, and or 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.)