



## **ALCUIN COLLEGE POLICY: WATER TESTING** *(Reviewed August 2024)*

### **Statement:**

Alcuin College must test for lead content in drinking water in their school facilities to ensure water quality meets established guidelines under applicable provincial and federal legislation, and report results to the Ministry of Education.

### **Rationale:**

This policy provides minimum requirements for testing lead content in drinking water of the facilities at Alcuin College, reporting of the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students and staff. This policy specifically addresses lead content in drinking water. The Ministry expects Alcuin College to mitigate other issues that affect the quality of water as prescribed under applicable provincial and federal legislation.

### **Risk Assessment:**

Once every three years, the School will ensure that the lead content in the water at Alcuin College falls into the normally accepted guidelines as set out by Drinking Water Protection Act. If the water falls inside of the accepted guidelines, testing will follow a three-year cycle. If the water falls outside of the accepted guidelines, strategies will be developed to mitigate the lead contamination of water.

### **Water Testing Requirement:**

Aligning with Ministry requirements, Alcuin College must complete lead content testing on all school facilities once every three years. Ideally, this takes place before the start of a school year.

### **Mitigation Strategies**

If sample results reveal lead levels that exceed the Maximum Allowable Concentration of Lead, as set out by Health Canada in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, Alcuin College, in consultation with the appropriate 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. Or other steps that result in reducing the exposure to lead to acceptable levels

**Communication Plan:**

In the event that testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level, Alcuin College must:

- 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 Vancouver Coastal Health 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,
  - identify partnership with the Health Authority to work toward a solution,
  - state results of sampling,
  - identify mitigation strategies implemented or being consider by the authority, and
  - provide contact information for the authority and the Regional Health Authority for parents, students and staff to request further information.

[Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water](#)