



**Drinking Water Testing Policy
for**

Pattison High School

981 Nelson Street

Vancouver, BC

V6Z 3B6

Draft Date: May 2013

Last Update: November 2023



Drinking Water Testing Policy

Rationale

Independent schools are responsible for ensuring the quality of water within their systems and plumbing. Pattison High School is committed to a safe school environment for the students registered at the school, including the provision of drinking water that meets the obligations of *The Drinking Water Protection Act*. The school will undertake systemic processes to ensure that drinking water meets the obligations of the Act and that students have potable drinking water at school.

Policy

This policy is here to ensure it meets provincial requirements established by the Ministry of Health, such as the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality for lead.

Our policy and process exist to ensure water quality and if needed, to resolve elevated lead levels that are outside established guidelines on any drinking water quality test results. We will conduct regular testing of the water supply for lead content to ensure that the results comply with the Ministry of Education and Child Care guidelines and the Independent Schools Branch.

All designated drinking water sources are tested every three years.

In the event that testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level of 0.005 mg/L, Pattison High School will:

- a. Immediately inform the Independent Schools Branch of the issue.
- 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,
 - identify partnership with the Health Authority to work toward a solution,
 - state results of sampling,



PATTISON HIGH SCHOOL

We don't teach a class, we teach individual students in a class

- 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

Process

Pattison High School provides filtered water cooler dispensers in the student cafeteria [room 103]. There are also two taps where drinking water may also be accessible: the tap that services the side-by-side sinks in the student cafeteria [room 103] and the tap that services the side-by-side sinks in the art classroom [room 120].

It is these two taps that are selected for drinking water testing, in part because they appear to be 'end of branch' and in part because the water from these taps is the only source likely to be used to provide water for food preparation or drinking.

1. Water samples will be collected, as above, once every three years, and sent for lead content testing. The most recent testing was done in November 2023 and the result was received on November 8, 2023. The next sampling date is to be before November 2026.
2. CARO Analytical Services is a provider of water testing and analysis. They test kit provides collection and handling instruction.
3. The maximum acceptable concentration for lead in drinking water at the tap is currently at 0.005 mg/L.
4. If necessary, mitigation strategies might include one or more of the following:
 - (a) flushing regimes,
 - (b) deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage,
 - (c) installation of filtration systems, and
 - (d) plumbing upgrades.