



**Water Testing Policy**  
**Vancouver Island of Innovation and Inquiry**  
**May 2021**

**RATIONALE**

In compliance with the following Acts, the Epiphyte Educational Society ("the Board") has developed a policy for testing drinking water in the school.

- [Drinking Water Protection Act](#)
- [Drinking Water Protection Regulation](#)
- [Public Health Act](#)
- [Independent School Act](#)

**POLICY**

The Board will develop and maintain a water testing program for testing lead content in drinking water in our school facility, reporting of the results, and implementing mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students and staff.

The Board will consult with Island Health to develop a water quality lead testing program for drinking water in the school. The program will include:

1. Risk assessment
2. Water testing
3. Communication plan
4. Mitigation strategies

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Risk Assessment**

If testing finds that lead levels exceed concentration of 0.010 mg/L (based on maximum allowable concentration as per "Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality" by Health Canada), the Board must:

1. Inform the Independent Schools branch,
2. Work with the appropriate Health Authority, and
3. Undertake recommended mitigation strategies.

### **Water Testing**

The Board will complete testing for lead content, plus any other contaminants deemed appropriate by Island Health and the school, at the intervals required by law or policy.

The Board will work with Island Health to determine a testing program for Vancouver Island School of Innovation and inquiry. The testing procedure and amount of samples taken shall be determined in consultation with Island Health. Results will be shared with Island Health and the Ministry of Education.

### **Communication**

In the event that testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level, the Board will:

1. immediately inform the Ministry of Education Independent Schools Branch.
2. work collaboratively with Island Health to communicate the results of lead content in drinking water to parents, students, and staff by describing the following:
  - a. rationale for testing lead in drinking water,
  - b. identify partnership with Island Health to work toward a solution,
  - c. state results of sampling,
  - d. identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered by the school,
  - e. provide contact information for parents, students, and staff to request further information.

## 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), the school will, in consultation with Island Health, undertake mitigation strategies which may include:

1. A flushing regime
2. Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage
3. Installation of filtration systems
4. Plumbing upgrades
5. Other steps that result in reducing to acceptable levels the exposure of staff and students to lead

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Epiphyte Educational Society

Adopted: 2021-12-08

Revised: 2021-12-05