

CATEGORY: Health and Safety Policies and Procedures

DATE: April 2009

SUBJECT: Water Flushing Policy

REVIEWED: March 2023

APPROVED BY: Shemina Ladak, Executive Director



Purpose:

Centennial Infant and Child Centre will adhere to the recommendations made by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to ensure CICC's drinking water is safe for consumption. This existing policy ensures that CICC is taking every precaution to ensure that the lead levels do not exceed the water quality standards as set out by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

Policy

This policy lays out the steps required daily and/or weekly and sample testing requirements for water flushing.

Procedure:

- **The cold water on each tap in all classrooms, children's washrooms, kitchen and gym must be turned on for at least 5 minutes in the morning before the children enter the program on the first school day of each week. Daily water flushing will resume if lead testing indicates that lead levels exceed the water quality standard of 10 micrograms per liter.**
- If a filter or other device that treats water is installed on or near the tap and it is possible to bypass the filter or other device without removing it, the filter or other device must be bypassed during the period that the cold water is flushed.
- If a tap or drinking water fountain has an aerator, the aerator must not be removed while flushing (*Safe Drinking Water Act O. Reg. 243/07*).
- Staff responsible for flushing must complete water flushing record sheet each week.
- All records, documents and a copy of O.Reg. 243/07 must be available for inspection by any member of the public during normal business hours without charge (*Safe Drinking Water O. Reg. 243/07*)
- Records of daily or weekly flushing and test results and reports must be kept for at least six years. (*Safe Drinking Water Act O. Reg. 243/07*)

- Records are kept in the “Water Flushing Binder” in the front office.

Sampling/Testing

- **At every day nursery located in buildings constructed before 1990**, annual testing of water samples must be taken between May 1st and October 31st.

Amendment O.Reg. 243/07 effective July 1, 2017, approval by Ministry of the Environment may be obtained for water testing to be reduced to every 3 years if:

1. all taps accessed by children, as listed above have been previously tested.
 2. lead levels are considered safe. **Approval received from Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for CICC on June 16, 2017.**
- Water sample must be submitted to a licensed laboratory to be tested for lead. A list of private laboratories licensed to test for lead in drinking water in Ontario is available at: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/sdwa/licensedlabs.php>
 - The operator of a day nursery is to ensure that two one-litre samples of cold water are taken during the above-noted time period from a tap that is commonly used to provide water for human consumption.
 - The samples must not be taken from a tap equipped with a filter or any other water treatment device. If all taps are equipped with a filter, then the filter or other device must be removed, and the tap must be turned on for at least five minutes to allow for testing.
 - Both samples must be taken from the same tap. The first sample must be taken after the longest period when the plumbing is not used and before the plumbing is flushed.
 - The second sample must be taken immediately after the first sample. Before taking the second sample, the tap must be turned on for at least five minutes, then turned off and left unused for a period of at least 30 but not more than 35 minutes.
 - **Should lead levels exceed the normal 10 ug/L as per testing result from a certified laboratory**, then bottled water must be used until the water has been retested and falls within the Ontario Standards of 10 ug/L.
 - Operator will follow Safe drinking water act direction on reporting a lead exceedance.

For details: *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change website.*