

To the Campus Community,

In December 2025, we performed lead sampling from campus drinking fountains. This is part of annual surveillance drinking water sampling conducted by Environmental Health and Safety to ensure continuing health and safety of university staff, faculty, students and visitors.

Thirty (30) drinking fountains and five (5) hydration station dispensers were sampled over a period of two days as a part of this survey. Below are the locations where lead was detected. ***All detected lead levels were below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).***

<i>Sample Identification</i>	<i>Sample Location</i>	<i>Drinking Water Source*</i>	<i>Lead Result (in parts per billion)</i>
ET-1 st FL-W-01	Engineering Technology -1 st FL, west corridor	DF	2.17
HHS2-201-01	Health and Human Services 2, near 201	DF	6.16
SSPA-010B-01	Social Sciences/Public Administration, near 010B	DF	4.79
SSPA-010B-01 (dup)	Social Sciences/Public Administration, near 010B (dup)	DF	6.16
SSPA-219-01	Social Sciences/Public Administration, near 219	DF	1.12

*DF= Drinking fountain; HS=Hydration Station

In older buildings on campus and throughout the country, trace amounts of lead in tap water can be a common occurrence. These trace levels can often be reduced by flushing drinking fountains and faucets for at least 30 seconds prior to use.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA has established an action level of 0.015 mg/L for lead in drinking water. This action level represents the concentration at which utilities must take corrective action if exceeded in more than 10 percent of samples collected (the 90th percentile value).

What Are the Health Effects of Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. It can damage the brain and kidneys and interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen throughout the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

What Are the Sources of Lead?

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, some children's metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Although your home's drinking water lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposure, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children for lead levels in their blood.

What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

Although our test results were below EPA's action level, you can take steps to further reduce your exposure.

- Run your water to flush out lead. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- Do not boil water to remove lead.
- Look for alternative sources or treatment of water (such as bottled water or water filters).

For additional information on reducing lead exposure around the campus and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

