



To: Occupants of Hamilton Hall  
From: Catherine Brennan, Executive Director of Environment, Health and Safety  
Date: September 19, 2022  
Re: Lead in Drinking Fountains

Occupants of Hamilton Hall,

Recent testing by Environment, Health and Safety revealed detectable levels of lead in three drinking fountains in your building. The fountains are on the second, fourth and fifth floors. The fountains have been removed from service, and signage directs people not to use them. They will be replaced.

The University uses the Environmental Protection Agency sampling protocol for testing fixtures for detectable lead. This protocol involves collecting a first sample in the morning, followed by a flushing protocol to clear stagnant water from the lines. Environment, Health and Safety personnel return in the afternoon to collect another sample for comparison with the first sample to determine the effect of flushing.

Using this protocol, the tests came back with the following data:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor drinking fountain** - The drinking fountain is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. The University's first test for this came back as 5.8 ppb. The second flushing protocol test of this drinking fountain came back with a result of 34 ppb.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Floor drinking fountain** - The drinking fountain is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. The University's first test for this came back as 2.8 ppb. The second flushing protocol test of this drinking fountain came back with a result of 7.2 ppb.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Floor drinking fountain** - The drinking fountain is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. The University's first test for this came back as 9.6 ppb. The second flushing protocol test of this drinking fountain came back with a result of 402 ppb.

Lead in drinking water may arise from corrosion of lead plumbing materials within fixtures.

Lead can cause serious health problems. Information about the effects of lead in water can be found on the [CDC's website](#) and on the [EPA's website](#).

We are alerting staff and faculty in your building to any fixtures that have traces of lead and will replace those fixtures. While the EPA requires public water systems to take action to lower lead levels in the water when testing shows a lead level of 15 ppb or higher, we are taking action for any measurable lead. Using that as a guidance, fixtures on campus showing detectable levels of lead will be replaced.



Questions can be directed to the Environment, Health and Safety Department at 919-962-5507. Updates can also be seen at the [EHS website](#). If you have further concerns, please contact the University Employee Occupational Health Clinic at 919-966-9119.

Thank you,

Catherine Brennan

Executive Director of Environment, Health and Safety

UNC-Chapel Hill