



To: Occupants of Isaac M. Taylor Hall
From: Catherine Brennan, Executive Director of Environment, Health and Safety
Date: September 26, 2022
Re: Lead in Drinking Fountains

Occupants of Isaac M. Taylor Hall,

Recent water testing of fixtures by Environment, Health and Safety revealed detectable levels of lead in two drinking fountains in your building. The fountains are in the basement and on the fifth floor. The fountains have been removed from service, and signage directs people not to use them. They will be replaced. Four other drinking fountains were tested as well but came back with results of non-detectable.

The University uses the Environmental Protection Agency sampling protocol for testing fixtures for detectable lead. This protocol involves flushing the fixture the afternoon prior to collecting samples to clear stagnant water from the lines. Environment, Health and Safety personnel return in the morning to collect two sequential samples in an effort to identify the potential source of lead.

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

- **Fifth floor near room 594 (women's restroom)** - The University's first test for this came back as 7.52 ppb. The second flushing protocol test of this drinking fountain came back with a result of 5.17 ppb.
- **Basement water cooler** - The University's first test for this came back as non-detectable. The second flushing protocol test of this drinking fountain came back with a result of 138 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](#).

While the EPA requires public water systems to take action to lower lead levels in the water when the testing of water fixtures shows a lead level of 15 ppb or higher in more than 10% of taps sampled, we are taking action for any measurable lead.

More information will be coming soon for health testing.



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