



To: Occupants of Wilson Library  
 From: Catherine Brennan, Executive Director of Environment, Health and Safety  
 Date: September 9, 2022  
 Re: UPDATE to Lead in Drinking Fountains

Occupants of Wilson Library,

Environment, Health and Safety performed further testing in Wilson Library that included an additional four drinking fountains and 40 sinks. As a result of this comprehensive testing, additional fixtures (one fountain and 14 sinks) were found with detectable lead and results are shown below.

**Drinking fountains:**

Location	First Draw (ppb)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sample After Flushing (ppb)	EPA Action Level (ppb)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Annex drinking fountain	3.0	2.0	15

**Sinks:**

Location	First Draw (ppb)	EPA Action Level (ppb)
10 <sup>th</sup> Floor Annex Restroom Sink	2.9	15
8 <sup>th</sup> Floor Annex Restroom Sink	4.6	
7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Annex Restroom Sink	3.1	
5 <sup>th</sup> Floor Annex Restroom Sink	3.6	
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Annex Restroom Sink	12.1	
1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Restroom Sink (Room 1T3)	2.0	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Reading Room Sink (Room 506)	4.0	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Sink (Room 505)	7.0	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Right Sink (Room 507J)	96.3	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Left Sink (Room 507J)	24.4	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Men’s Restroom Right Sink (Room 5T3)	6.3	



3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Conservation Lab Right Sink (Room 707)	30.3	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Conservation Lab Left Sink (Room 707)	2.6	
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Women's Restroom Right Sink (Room 9T4)	2.8	

Lead cannot be absorbed through the skin so sinks can still be used for washing hands and therefore will not be shut off. Sinks that have been identified have been posted with signage to not drink from the sink. Sinks identified with detectable lead should not be used for brushing teeth or filling water bottles.

The investigation into the cause of detectable levels of lead in Wilson Library is on-going but in general lead in drinking water can be attributed to three sources: lead pipe, lead solder and lead brass fittings. Lead can enter drinking water from these sources due to corrosion of these plumbing materials.

For reference purposes, 0.015 mg/L, or 15 ppb, is the level at which the EPA requires public water systems to deliver education materials and to take action to reduce the concentration of lead in the water. It would take much higher lead levels in water to cause elevated blood lead levels in most adults.

Information about the effects of lead in water can be found on the [CDC's website](#) and on the [EPA's website](#). Questions about the ongoing investigation can be directed to the Environment, Health and Safety Department at 919-962-5507. Updates can also be seen at <https://ehs.unc.edu/about/healthy/water/>. If you are an employee who is pregnant, breast feeding or 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