

Drinking Water Quality Testing

Additional Information

Why is the Campus testing the drinking water quality?

Recently two (2) of our sister campuses, Sacramento and Long Beach, tested the drinking water on their campuses and found that some points of delivery (fixtures) tested above the California Drinking Water standard limit for lead of 15 parts per billion (ppb). As a precautionary step, Chico State's Administration has decided to proactively test our drinking water to ensure we meet the standard.

Where does the Campus get its drinking water?

The Campus receives its water from Cal Water. Cal Water publicizes water quality reports here: <https://www.calwater.com/waterquality/water-quality-reports/ch/>

Where does lead come from?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the most common source for lead in drinking water is the fixture at the point of delivery.

Why are you testing during the winter break?

Testing during the winter break will allow us to follow the Environmental Protection Agency's testing method. This method requires fixtures to be flushed, not used for at least 8-hours, and then tested. Testing while the Campus, and especially the residence halls, are minimally occupied will decrease disruptions and increase sample validity.

When will the results be available?

Results will be received from the analytical lab eight (8) to (10) days after the sample is drawn from the fixture.

Where can I see the results?

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) will make available the sample results on the EHS web site as soon as possible after the results are received.

What if a fixture test results exceed the standard?

Fixtures which test higher than the 15ppb will immediately be removed from service. At that point, decisions will be made on the next step which could include retesting or replacing the fixture.

Where will I obtain drinking water if my normal fixture has been taken out of service?

Depending on the proximity of the next available fixture, the University will provide an alternative source of drinking water in an appropriate location.

How long will this disruption last?

The primary round of testing should be complete prior to the spring semester starting. Testing of fixtures not previously identified, in limited access areas, and re-testing of some fixtures could extend through the spring, however should have little impact on most of the Campus Community. The replacement of fixtures could take much longer. The time will be dependent on the number of fixtures, their availability, the complexity of their design, and other operational considerations. Every attempt will be made to minimize the impact.

What if I am concerned about lead levels?

According to the EPA the most susceptible population is infants and children. However, if you have health concerns, you should discuss those concerns with your medical provider.

How do I find out more about lead in drinking water?

Please visit one of the sites below to gain a better understanding of lead.

Environmental Protection Agency - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

State Water Resources Control Board - https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/coc_lead.pdf

Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm>