

Christ, Andrew P.

From: Andrew P. Christ
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016
Subject: NJIT Water Testing - Update

Dear Members of the University Community:

As part of our continuing efforts to ensure safe drinking water for the university community, NJIT has conducted additional water testing that included all occupied buildings on campus.

As described in our previous communication, the EPA recommends 2-step testing of drinking water. The initial sample is collected after water has remained unused in the pipe or fixture for a minimum of eight (8) hours but not more than eighteen (18) hours. This initial sample is known as a first draw sample. Follow up sampling will be conducted at the same locations after flushing the plumbing fixture for approximately 30 seconds. The second step sample is known as a follow up flush sample.

The additional testing was conducted in order to better understand potential problem areas associated with the distribution of drinking water on campus. The additional round of testing had two immediate goals:

1. Re-Testing: To collect follow up flush samples from locations that returned initial sample results higher than the U.S. EPA and NJ DEP Action Level of 15 micrograms per liter (or 15 parts per billion).
2. Additional Testing: To collect initial (first draw) samples from all other occupied buildings on campus.

All testing completed to date has been conducted in accordance with the EPA guidelines that are intended to help facilities identify particular plumbing fixtures that may be problematic. Because many samples collected from various buildings on campus have returned results below the limit of analytical detection, we are reasonably certain that our source water is not contaminated. Rather, the additional first draw samples and follow up samples have helped us identify plumbing fixtures in need of replacement, additional locations where bottled drinking water is to be deployed, as well as locations where point of use water filtration devices may be effective.

In response to the results, NJIT will accelerate the implementation of the Interim Control Plan in the impacted buildings that was described in our previous communication. Specifically, NJIT will:

- Continue to remove from service all drinking fountains and plumbing fixtures in buildings where sample analysis returned follow up results higher than the U.S. EPA/NJ DEP Action Level.
- Accelerate the replacement of problematic plumbing fixtures focusing first on drinking fountains and sink faucets in food preparation areas.

- Continue to provide alternative source of drinking water, in the form of bottled water, for locations in impacted buildings where drinking fountains and kitchen plumbing fixtures were removed from service.
- Begin to install point of use water filtration devices, certified for the removal of lead from drinking water by the appropriate ANSI/NSF Standard, in locations where they may be most effective.
- Accelerate all other aspects of the interim control plan, including the posting of signs, the flushing of drinking water systems, and the collection of additional water samples.

We have created a page on the NJIT website related to the drinking water testing and mitigation plans. Additional information along with the information provided previously can be found here: <http://www5.njit.edu/environmentalsafety/drinking-water-testing/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. NJIT is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our community. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to remedy this issue.

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