

Fact Sheet

Status of Drinking Water at The Beach

Updated November 17, 2017 @12:55 p.m.

What prompted the recent concern about water from drinking fountains?

CSULB professor Elaine Bernal and students taking her CHEM 100 course tested drinking fountains from various locations on campus. The locations included the following:

- McIntosh Humanities Building
- Academic Services
- Psychology
- Peterson Hall 1
- Vivian Engineering Center
- Social Sciences/Public Affairs
- Fine Arts 2
- The hydration station near Prospector Pete.

The student's test results found some fountains at McIntosh Humanities Building (MHB) tested positive for lead. No other sites tested positive for lead. Faculty and staff working in the MHB asked university officials to conduct additional tests to confirm whether elevated levels of lead exist in the building's drinking fountains. Official tests indicated that some the MHB drinking fountains did not conform with Environmental Protection Agency standards.

How officials responded

All unfiltered drinking water fountains on campus have been shut off. The university is investing in experts and solutions that will provide us with a water delivery system – as quickly as possible – that meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. It also is important you know we will not turn on any drinking water outlet until we know the water it delivers will meet or exceed those standards. Widespread testing of water at drinking fountains, kitchen faucets and outside hydration stations is being conducted.

Water on campus

Water on campus comes from the Long Beach Water Department. The department tests for lead and has deemed the water safe to drink. To learn more, click [here](#).

Where you can find drinking water on campus today:

1. [Filtered hydration stations](#)
2. If water is flowing at a drinking location, that water meets EPA standards.

The purpose of the testing

While the Long Beach Water Department has determined the water coming into campus is safe, it is possible pipes and unfiltered drinking fountains could introduce lead into the water. The purpose of the testing is to identify drinking fountains, kitchen faucets and hydration stations yielding an elevated level of lead. The standard being used is 15 parts per billion (ppb), which is stricter than the EPA standard for drinking fountains in K-12 schools.

Who is conducting the testing?

Titan Environmental, an environmental services company.

Where testing will take place:

- Facilities operated by the campus built after 1980
- Student Health Services Center
- The Student Union
- The Research Foundation Building
- The Student Recreation and Wellness Center
- The 49er Shops food preparation areas
- Residential housing
- Isabel Patterson Child Development Center
- Family and Consumer Sciences Family and Child Center

You may view the testing sites [here](#). It may take several weeks before a final report is available.

Test results will be published

The full report from Titan Environmental, including the results from each drinking fountain or faucet that was tested, will be shared with the campus community and posted to the campus website should you wish to review it.

Where you can find general information about lead in drinking water:

[How lead gets into drinking water](#)

[Health effects of being exposed to lead in drinking water](#)

What you can do:

[Find out if lead is in your drinking water](#)

[Reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water at home](#)

[Get your child tested to determine lead levels in his or her blood](#)

[Find out if lead in drinking water is an issue in your child's school or child care facility](#)

Established drinking water requirements for lead:

[EPA's drinking water regulations for lead](#)

[Recent EPA actions and revisions](#)

[How EPA requires states and public water systems to protect drinking water](#)

[Related information from other federal government agencies](#)

Related information:

- [Safe Drinking Water Act](#)
- [Lead in Drinking Water](#)
- [Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)
- [WIIN Strategic Plan – Strategic Plan for Targeted Outreach to Populations Affected by Lead](#)
- [Analytical Methods – Methods Approved to Analyze Drinking Water Samples to Ensure Compliance with Regulations](#)
- [Regulation Development Process](#)
- [EPA – Drinking Water Requirements for States and Public Water Systems](#) and information on chemical and microbial contaminants. Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.

(Sources: EPA, CDC)