Customer Notification of Lead in Drinking Water Testing Results

The University of Rhode Island operates its own Public Water Supply in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Due to URIs favorable past testing history, our system is on Reduced Monitoring, which requires testing for lead once every three years. This letter provides notification of those test results.

On September 17, 2024, URI Office of Utilities staff collected water samples from 30 locations on campus in accordance with EPA's Lead and Copper Rule and the Rhode Island Department of Health regulations for analysis of lead levels in the drinking water. The result of this testing is summarized below.

TEST RESULTS ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH EPA ACTION LEVELS.

Sample Date	Building	EPA Lead Action Level (mg/L)	Lead Sample Result (mg/L)
09/17/24	Hopkins Hall	0.015	0.0037
09/17/24	Garrahy Hall	0.015	0.0029
09/17/24	Bressler Hall	0.015	0.0026
09/17/24	Sherman Building	0.015	0.0022
09/17/24	Carlotti Admin Building	0.015	0.0021
09/17/24	Quinn Hall	0.015	0.0017
09/17/24	Wiley Hall	0.015	0.0016
09/17/24	Human Resources	0.015	0.0015
09/17/24	Ballentine Hall	0.015	0.0010
09/17/24	Eddy Hall	0.015	0.0010
09/17/24	Heathman Hall	0.015	0.0008
09/17/24	Greenhouse	0.015	0.0008
09/17/24	Parking Services	0.015	0.0007
09/17/24	Center for Biological Science	0.015	0.0007
09/17/24	Fascitelli Wellness Center	0.015	0.0007
09/17/24	East Hall	0.015	0.0006
09/17/24	Dining Services	0.015	0.0005
09/17/24	Cancer Prevention Research Center	0.015	0.0005
09/17/24	Hutchinson Hall	0.015	0.0005
09/17/24	Lippitt Hall	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Green Hall	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Swan Hall	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Aldrich Hall	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Alumni Center	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Coastal Institute	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Keaney Gym	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Library	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Hillside Hall	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Beaupre Chemistry and Forensic Science	0.015	ND
09/17/24	Browning Hall	0.015	ND

Discussion Of Results
The enforceable Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow, and EPA requires 90% of the sample locations (27 sites) to be at or below the Action Level. The Action Level for lead is 0.015 mg/L. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a recommended Maximum Contaminant Level **Goal** (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. At URI, 30 of our 30 tested locations were below the Action Level, so there are no required actions.

What Are the Health Effects of Lead?
Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

What Are the Sources of Lead?
The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is found in older plumbing materials, some toys, some playground equipment, some children's metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery.

Steps To Reduce Lead in Drinking Water
Flush your pipes before drinking, and only use cold water for consumption. The more time water has been sitting in the building's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, "flush" your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get. This could take as little as thirty seconds to a few minutes depending upon use in the building.

Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. The two actions recommended above are very important to your health. They will probably be effective in reducing lead levels because most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing, not from the local water supply.

For More Information
Please contact Matthew Simeone at 874-4203, Water System Manager, Office of Utilities, if you need further information.