



WATER SAMPLING PROGRAM

History

Beginning in May 2016, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at Purchase College started a program to sample and test the campus water for lead, copper and coliform. The initial sampling focused on water fountains, but in December it was expanded to include the representation of other water sources. In February 2017, the College proactively decided to test all potable water sources on campus using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for K-12 school districts as there are currently no guidelines or standards for higher education facilities. Approximately 12% of the samples exceeded EPA's threshold.

Water filters were installed on all water fountains, kitchen sinks and residential bathroom sinks identified with excessive metals. "Do Not Drink" signs were posted on bathroom sinks and other areas not commonly used for drinking purposes. Hydration stations providing filtered and refrigerated water were also installed to serve major buildings and residential areas.

Scope

It is the policy of Purchase College to provide potable water meeting the EPA K-12 guidelines.

To ensure that this policy is met, the water sampling program described in this document has been implemented.

A representative sampling pool that includes all buildings will be collected and analyzed annually. Within each building, an emphasis will be placed on locations more likely used for drinking (hydration stations, water fountains, and kitchen sinks), but all potable sources will be represented, both filtered and not filtered.

Sampling Process

The water sampling is scheduled throughout the year by the Office of Environmental Health & Safety. Advanced communication will be sent to the campus community to secure cooperation in testing water sources. This communication will ensure that after the water source is flushed, it will not be used for a minimum of 8 hours prior to the sample being taken.

A representative of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety will collect a first draw sample [in accordance with the EPA best practices for the collection of water samples](#).

Evaluation

When sample results are received from the independent laboratory, they are reviewed by representatives of the offices of Facilities Management and Environmental Health & Safety. Appropriate responses to samples above the EPA action levels may include additional sampling, filter installation, the designation of a water source as non-potable, or the repair or replacement of plumbing and fixtures.

Reporting

Sample results will be posted on the [Purchase College Environmental Health & Safety webpage](#). For results that come back above the EPA action level, the affected residents and/or building occupants will be notified via email either directly from EHS or through the Building Manager. The lab results, the exact location of the water source, and any necessary action steps will be included in this communication.