

Stakeholder Memo #28

In GSA's ongoing effort to inform tenants about the [Goodfellow Environmental Project](#), the following provides recent updates on the [Goodfellow Federal Center](#).

Recent drinking water sampling results

In September 2021, GSA's contracted industrial hygiene firm collected water samples at the Goodfellow Federal Center as part of GSA's continual check for water quality. They collected a total of 86 samples, including duplicate samples, from within 11 buildings at the complex. All but 4 samples resulted in levels less than the [action levels](#), 15 parts per billion or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) for lead and 1.3 parts per million or 1,300 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for copper:

1. The northeast sink in Building 105, 2nd floor, Lab Room 324, had a lead concentration of 19 $\mu\text{g/L}$.
2. The east island sink in Building 105, 2nd floor, Lab Room 328, had a lead concentration of 51 $\mu\text{g/L}$.
3. The south wall sink in Building 105, 2nd floor, Lab Room 328, had a lead concentration of 39 $\mu\text{g/L}$.
4. The east wall sink in Building 105, 2nd floor, Lab Room 347, had a lead concentration of 37 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

All of these sources were removed from service as soon as the sample results were available. The aerators and faucets on the four sinks in Building 105 have been cleaned. The sinks will remain out of service until the cause of the issue can be determined and/or the decision to permanently remove them from service is made.

The full sampling reports are available at gsa.gov/goodfellowreadingroom.

GSA continues to monitor concentrations of contaminants throughout the complex. The next round of campus-wide air and wipe sampling is underway and drinking water sampling is scheduled for March.

Agency personal property sampling

In August 2021, GSA's contracted industrial hygiene firm collected surface samples from agency personal property within occupied spaces. The surfaces sampled on property included desks, tables, counters, shredders, laptop, keyboard pad, label maker, printers, plotter, and paper cutter. A total of 49 samples were collected in occupied spaces in 8 buildings and were analyzed for the target metals of arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, selenium, and silver. There was no arsenic, selenium, or silver detected in any sample. Detectable levels of barium, cadmium, chromium, and lead were found in the samples, but none had levels above recommended thresholds.

The full sampling reports are available at gsa.gov/goodfellowreadingroom.

Lead-based paint in stairwells

On August 30 and September 1, 2021, surfaces of stairwell handrails and associated components in buildings throughout the Goodfellow Federal Center in St. Louis, Missouri, were analyzed for lead-based paint. The testing was a follow-up to dust wipe sampling of various painted handrails that indicated the presence of lead. XRF analyzers can detect lead-based paint on the surface and in all layers of paint that may be present under the other layers of paint.

Results from the XRF testing showed numerous handrails around the Federal Center have been painted with lead-based paint at some point in the past. Nearly 50% (66 out of 141 test results) indicated the presence of lead-based paint with a lead content that exceeds



the HUD standard. As part of the effort, a visual inspection of the stair rails was also performed and 8 stair rails and/or stair rail components (handrails, midrails, balusters, stringers, etc.) showed signs of chipping and deteriorated lead-based paint in fair or poor condition. In general, the high touch surfaces along the stair rail handrails showed the most problems. All stair rails with noted conditions were repaired and repainted as described below.

The presence of lead in paint usually is not a hazard if the paint is maintained in good condition (intact) and not on a surface that receives a lot of impact or friction. However, as the paint breaks down from use, paint chips and lead dust can be released. GSA has repaired and repainted the stairwell handrails and associated components with non-lead-based paint to encapsulate the lead-based paint. We will properly manage it in place and inspect the stair rails every month to ensure the lead-based paint stays intact.

As always, we suggest Federal Center personnel continue to use good hygiene practices, such as washing hands before eating and drinking, to help reduce exposure to lead and the other contaminants present. We request that anyone who sees damage to stair rail painted surfaces to report it to building management immediately. We will continue to manage the situation and take proper corrective action as required.

The report and a table of the results are available at gsa.gov/goodfellowreadingroom.

Additions to contaminated spaces

Please remember that no one is allowed to access spaces or equipment where we have identified environmental contamination, unless GSA has an accepted Site Specific Safety Plan on file. New additions include:

- Surfaces in exposed open ceilings, because of sampling results (reports are at gsa.gov/goodfellowreadingroom). Remember **all surfaces above 70" are considered to have contamination, because they are not regularly cleaned.**
- Building 115 because it is now vacant and not regularly cleaned.

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