**REMOVE OR REPLACE HIGHLIGHTED TEXT**

**LONG FORM-Notice For Other Types of Media**

**[System] DRINKING WATER NOTICE**

**Some homes have high levels of lead**

***This notice contains important information about your drinking water.  Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.***

Our water system exceeded the lead drinking water action level.

Select one of the applicable highlighted sentences and delete the other one:

[1. We routinely monitor for lead in water in homes likely to have elevated lead levels, including homes with lead service lines or lead solder] or

[2. We routinely monitor for lead in water in homes with lead service lines as they are more likely to have elevated lead levels (Only use this sentence if all the samples are from homes with LSL)].

We are required to collect [XX] samples between [insert date beginning of monitoring period] and [insert date end of monitoring period]. [XX] of these higher risk homes had elevated lead levels. The results of these routine samples for lead indicate a level of [XX] mg/L (or XX parts per billion). This level exceeds the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L (or 15 parts per billion). This means that more than 10 percent of the lead samples collected were above the lead action level.

**What does this mean?**

Our system’s water mains that carry the water to you are made mostly of [insert piping material specific to your PWS, for example iron and steel], and therefore do not add lead to water. However, lead can get into tap water through the service line that connects your home to the water main if it is made of lead. Lead may also come from lead solder used to connect pipes in home plumbing, and from some faucets and fixtures.

*There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.*

**What should I do to reduce my exposure to lead?**

* Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in your home’s pipes, the more lead it may contain.
* **Before drinking, flush your home’s pipes** by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. If you are not familiar with the structural and plumbing details of your residence, run the water for at least one (1) minute or until after it turns cold.

For more information about building flushing, see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information/>.

* **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA’s website at [Home Drinking Water Filtration Fact Sheet | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet) and EPA’s [A Consumer Tool for Identifying Point of Use (POU) Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead (epa.gov)](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf).
* **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet’s screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
* **Learn about construction in your neighborhood**. Contact your public water supplier to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Activities that physically disturb the service line may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.
* **Have your water tested.** **You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water.** Contact your public water supplier to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water and any information about how to get your water tested. The only way to determine the level of lead in drinking water at your home is to have the water tested by a state certified laboratory. See [Certified Laboratory Search Results (state.ma.us)](https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DEP/Labcert/Labcert.aspx) for a list of certified laboratories that offer lead in drinking water testing.
* **Do not boil the water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead. Excessive boiling can increase lead levels as lead remains behind when the water boils away.
* **Check whether your home has a lead service line. IF YOU DO, HAVE IT REMOVED.** 
  + **[If applicable” Learn what your service line material is by checking your home address at [PWS website]].**
  + Please contact [insert PWS contact information] for more information about your home's service line, how to have it removed, or for information about plumbing materials in your home that may contain lead.
  + You may use EPA’s Protect Your Tap tool to help identify if your service line is lead – see [www.epa.gov/pyt.](http://www.epa.gov/pyt.%5bInsert)
* **Contact your health care provider if you have any health-related questions or contact your local health department to find out if your child needs to be tested for lead.** A blood lead level test is the only way to know if your child is being exposed to lead. For more information on Massachusetts’ childhood lead testing program, contact the Department of Public Health at 1-800-532-9571 or see [www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program](file:///C:/Users/jessica/Downloads/www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program).

**What is our system doing?**

Our public water system is taking the following actions to address the situation:

* [Describe corrective actions which may include: a treatment review, your LSL removal program, investigating homes with elevated levels, notifying all homeowners with suspected LSLs (mention if this has been done already), additional community outreach; and when system expects to sample next.]

For more information, contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address or email address].

For more information on lead see [weblink]

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by [system]. PWS ID#: [xxxxxxx] Date distributed [date]

Distributed media type [insert type]