**CONSUMER NOTICE OF TAP WATER RESULTS**

Contact us at [insert phone number] to obtain a translated copy of the public education materials or to request assistance in the appropriate language.

Add the above statement in all languages predominantly spoken in the service area - see the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience’s Public Education Factsheet at https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/pe-fs.pdf.

[Date]

Dear Consumer,

[Insert name of your water system] appreciates your participation in the lead tap monitoring program. A lead level of [insert data from the laboratory analysis of the sample collected-make sure the value is in ppb] parts per billion (ppb) was reported for the sample collected on [date] at your location, [insert address of customer].

Your result is **above** the lead action level and the 90th percentile value for our water system is also **above** the lead action level of 15 ppb. *[EPA recommends that the 90th percentile level be included, if known prior to the delivery deadline. If not known remove the second half of the sentence.]*

If you are a landlord receiving this notice for the above referenced property, you must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2021, c.82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

**What Does This Mean?**

Under the authority of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. An action level exceedance is determined by measuring the highest concentration of lead in tap water that is exceeded by 10 percent of the sites sampled during a monitoring period (90th percentile result). If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the water system must take steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a 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.

We are taking a number of steps to correct the problem including sampling, public education, [**OPTION**: lead service line replacement], and evaluation of treatment.

Although we are taking action to reduce lead levels, your elevated lead level may also be due to conditions unique to your home or building, such as the presence of lead soldier or brass faucets, fittings and valves that may contain lead. We strongly urge you to take the steps below to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water.

**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. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. 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 it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother’s bones, which may affect brain development.If you are concerned about lead exposure, you may want to ask your health care provider about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

**What Are the Sources of Lead?**

Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Lead is rarely found in source water but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free”, may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free”. However, prior to January 4, 2014, “lead free” allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org/) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

**What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?**

1**. OPTION: Remove this step if you know there are no LSLs in your entire service area**. **Find out if you have a lead service line**. Residents and customers are encouraged to check their portion of the service line for lead, and we are asking you to contact us at [insert water system phone number or email address] if a lead service line is identified so we can update our records. Lead service lines in New Jersey are water supply connections made of, or lined with, a material consisting of lead, and which connects a water main to a building inlet. Lead pigtails, lead goosenecks, and other lead fittings are also considered to be lead service lines along with galvanized service lines. We [will be notifying or notified] those addresses served by a lead service line according to our records on [date] by mail.

We are required by New Jersey law, P.L. 2021, c.183 (C.58:12A-40 to 58:12A-47), to replace all lead service lines by July 2031 which requires us to confirm if your line contains lead.

2. **OPTION: Remove this step if you know there are no LSLs in your entire service area**. **Replace service lines containing lead**. In New Jersey all lead service lines within our service area must be replaced in full, from the street to home, regardless of whether or not we are exceeding the lead action level. Contact [insert water system phone number or email address] to learn more about replacing the lead service line on your property.

3. **Find out if you have interior lead plumbing or solder.** If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

4. **Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead.** Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of “lead free” as outlined above under sources of lead.

5. **Run the cold water to flush out lead** **before using it for drinking or cooking.** Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15 to 30 seconds. OPTION: For those with lead service lines or until you determine if you are served by one, let the water run from the tap longer based on the size of the home/building and the distance to the water main.

6. **Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula**. Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

7. **Do not boil water to remove lead as it will not reduce lead levels.**

8. **Use alternative sources or treatment of water.** If there is confirmed or suspected lead-containing materials serving or inside your home or building, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org/) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

9. **Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens located at the tip of faucets on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

10. **OPTIONAL FOR SITUATIONS WHERE ALL CONSUMERS WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE NOTICE DIRECTLY** (e.g., MULTI-FAMILY, LEASED PROPERTY, ETC.): **Test your water for lead.** If you are receiving this notice and your water has not been tested, call us at [insert water system phone number] to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

11. **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. Wash your children’s hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age (12 and 24 months), and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead. You can find out more about how to get your child tested and how to pay for it at <https://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml>. Children 3 to 5 years of age should also be tested if they have not been tested before.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test indicates that the drinking water coming from your tap contains lead concentrations more than 15 ppb after flushing, or after we have completed our actions to minimize lead levels, then you may want to take the following additional measures:

12. **Have an electrician check your wiring.** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

13**. Water softeners and reverse osmosis units** will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

**For More Information**

Call us at [insert your water system’s phone number]. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at [**www.epa.gov/lead**](http://www.epa.gov/lead)**,** call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

You can check your water system’s analytical results and monitoring requirements (i.e., the frequency of sampling and number of samples) on New Jersey Drinking Water Watch at [www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/waterwatch](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/waterwatch).