[**Insert name of water system**]

**DRINKING WATER NOTICE**:

**LEAD ACTION LEVEL EXCEEDANCE**

**Water sampling shows elevated levels of lead in some homes/buildings in the service area of our water system.**

Drinking water is routinely tested for lead at taps in homes/buildings where lead levels are expected to be the highest, including homes/buildings with lead service lines, lead pipes, and/or lead solder.

You are receiving this notice because [**Insert name of water system**] found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings that were recently tested. If your home or building is one of the locations that has been recently tested for lead by our water system, you should receive or may have already received test results in addition to this notice. The results of samples collected from your home/building are specific to your home/building and may be different from the results of samples taken at other locations.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

**What is an Action Level?**

The lead action level is not a health standard; rather, it is a level at which, if exceeded, water systems are required to take certain actions to reduce exposure to lead at customers’ taps. To determine whether the lead action level has been exceeded, water systems compare sample results from homes/buildings tested during a sample period to the action level of 15 parts per billion as established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If 10 percent of the water samples from these homes/buildings have lead concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the water system must perform actions such as providing public education, adjusting water treatment, and replacing lead service lines (if lead service lines are present).

**What Happened?**

Between [**Month/Year**] and [**Month/Year**], we collected [**insert # of samples**] samples from homes/buildings in our community and analyzed them for lead. The results of at least 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead.

[**Water System Name**] is focused on protecting the health of every water customer in our community; however, if lead is present in service lines, plumbing, and/or fixtures at homes/buildings, it can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. This does not mean that every home/building that receives drinking water from [**Water System Name**] has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit [EPA’s website](https://www.epa.gov/lead).

**Health Effects of Lead**

*Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.*

**Steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water**

Below are some recommended actions that you may take if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water.

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** The more time water remains still/stagnant in pipes and plumbing that contain lead, the more lead may be present in the water. If the water has not been used for several hours, flush your home’s pipes by running the tap\*, taking a shower, doing laundry, and/or doing a load of dishes before drinking.

\*If your home/building does not have a lead service line, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. If your home/building has a lead service line, the amount of time needed to run the water to flush out the lead may increase. Please contact us at **[insert contact info for PWS]** for questions regarding the presence of lead service lines and/or recommendations about flushing times.

1. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead from plumbing dissolves more easily in hot water.
2. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.
3. **Test your water for lead.** Call us at [**insert phone number for your water system**] to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** If your home/building has lead in the plumbing and/or testing shows an elevated level of lead in the drinking water, you may want to consider purchasing a water filter to remove lead or bottled water. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or <http://www.nsf.org/> for information on performance standards for water filters.
5. **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 exposure.
6. **Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute lead to drinking water. Visit NSF International’s website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.
7. **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.
8. **Filter Use**. If you use a filter to remove lead from drinking water, it should be certified for lead removal. Contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. 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. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.
9. **Learn about construction in your neighborhood**. Contact us at **[phone number and/or email address of water system]** to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.

**What is Being Done?**

In addition to this notification, we will provide additional information to residents at locations where a lead sample was collected as part of routine water monitoring, and we will also be following up by providing additional public education to all our water customers.

We are also performing the following:

* **Water Quality Monitoring** – we are planning to conduct additional lead and/or water quality monitoring of our water supply.
* **Lead Service Line Replacement** – if we determine that lead service lines are present in our service area, we are planning to remove them in accordance with EPA requirements.
* **Corrosion Control Treatment** – we are evaluating which water treatment(s) would be most effective at reducing the corrosivity of the water in our service area.

For more information, please contact [**name of water utility contact**] at [**phone number and/or email**] or [**mailing address**]. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk from lead in drinking water are available from EPA’s website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

*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.*