



Water Quality in Benton Harbor

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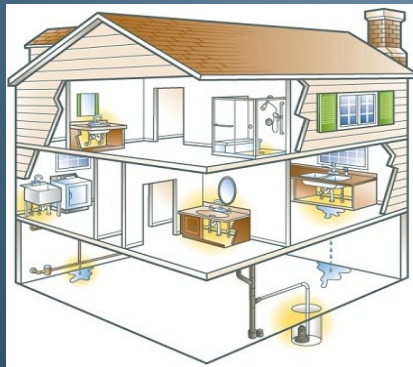
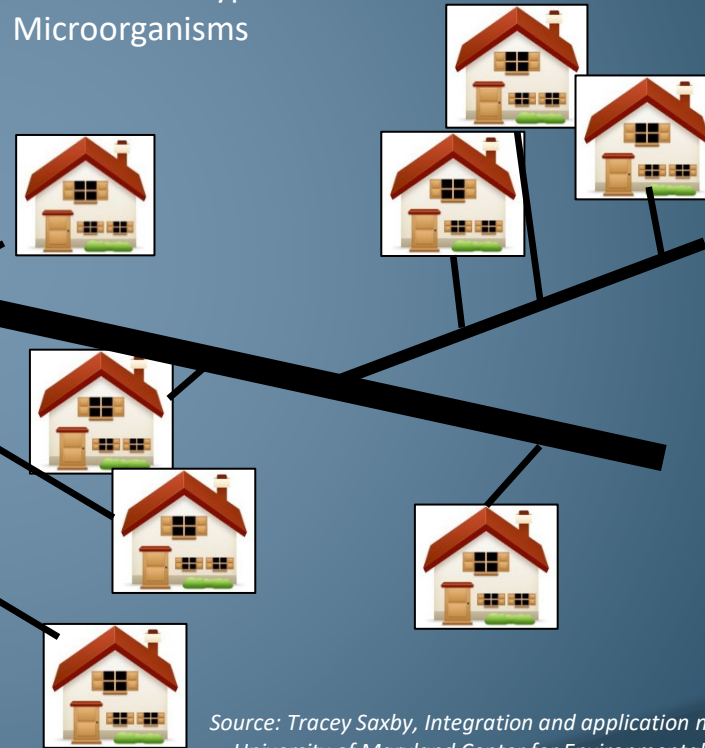
How we monitor drinking water quality

Water Treatment Plant:

Microorganisms
Organics and Inorganics
PFAS compounds
Radionuclides



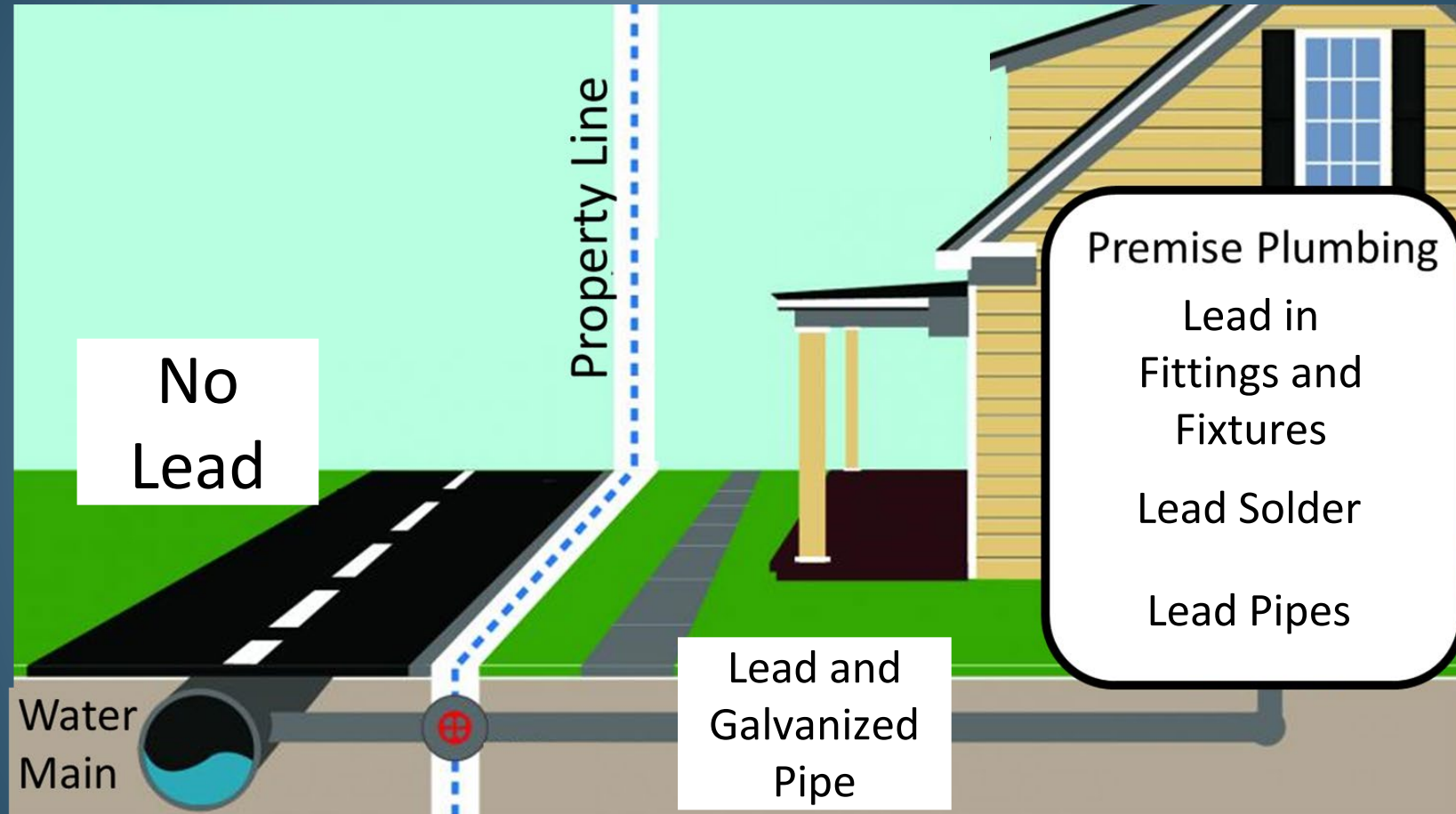
Distribution System: Disinfection Byproducts Microorganisms



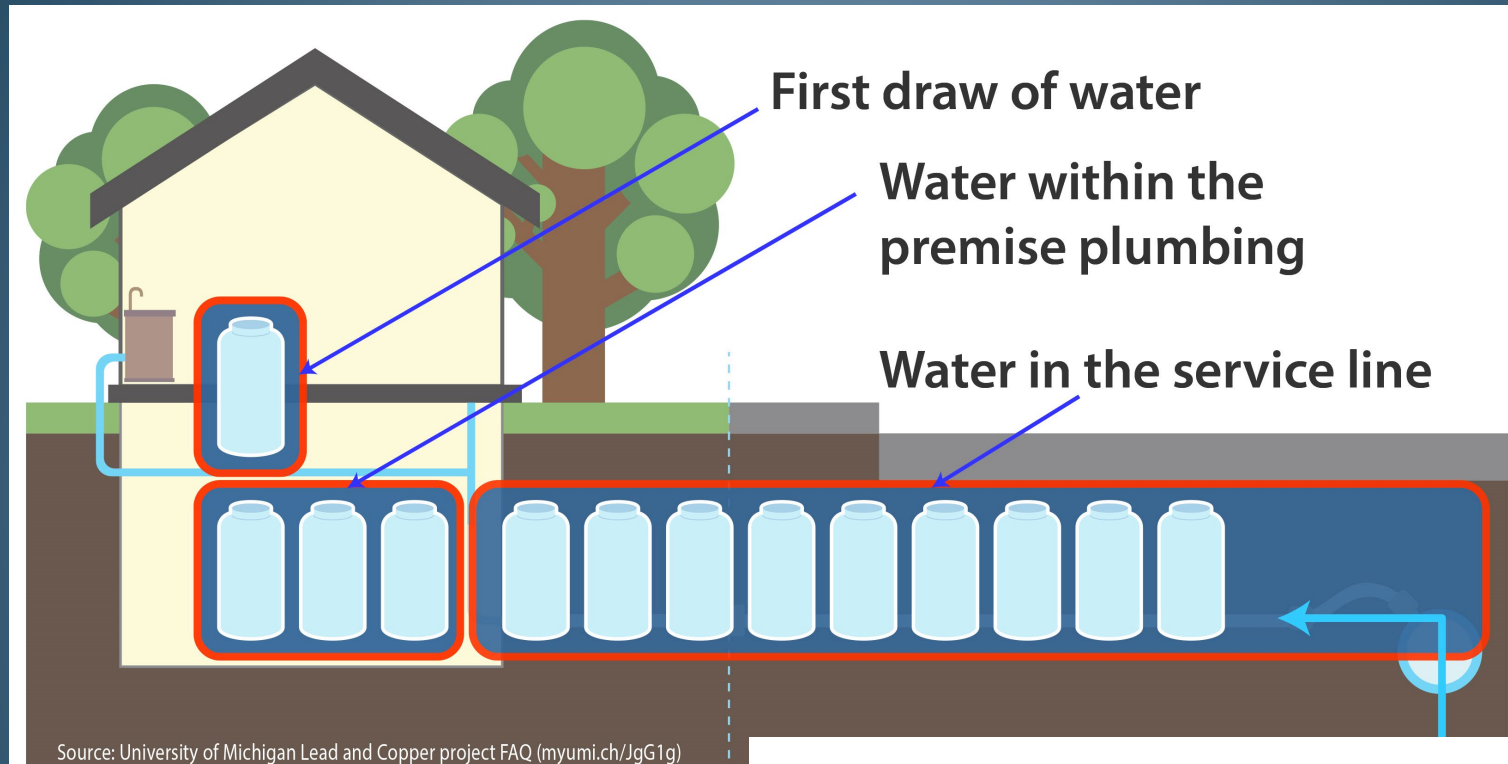
Customer's Home: Lead and Copper

*Source: Tracey Saxby, Integration and application network,
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science*

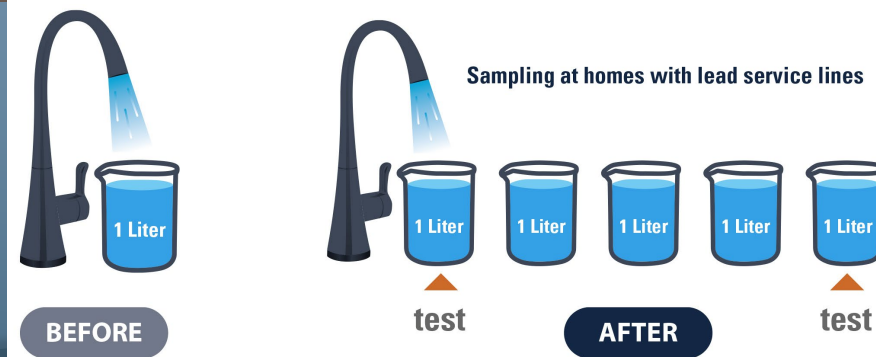
Sources of Lead In Drinking Water



Sampling for Lead in Water

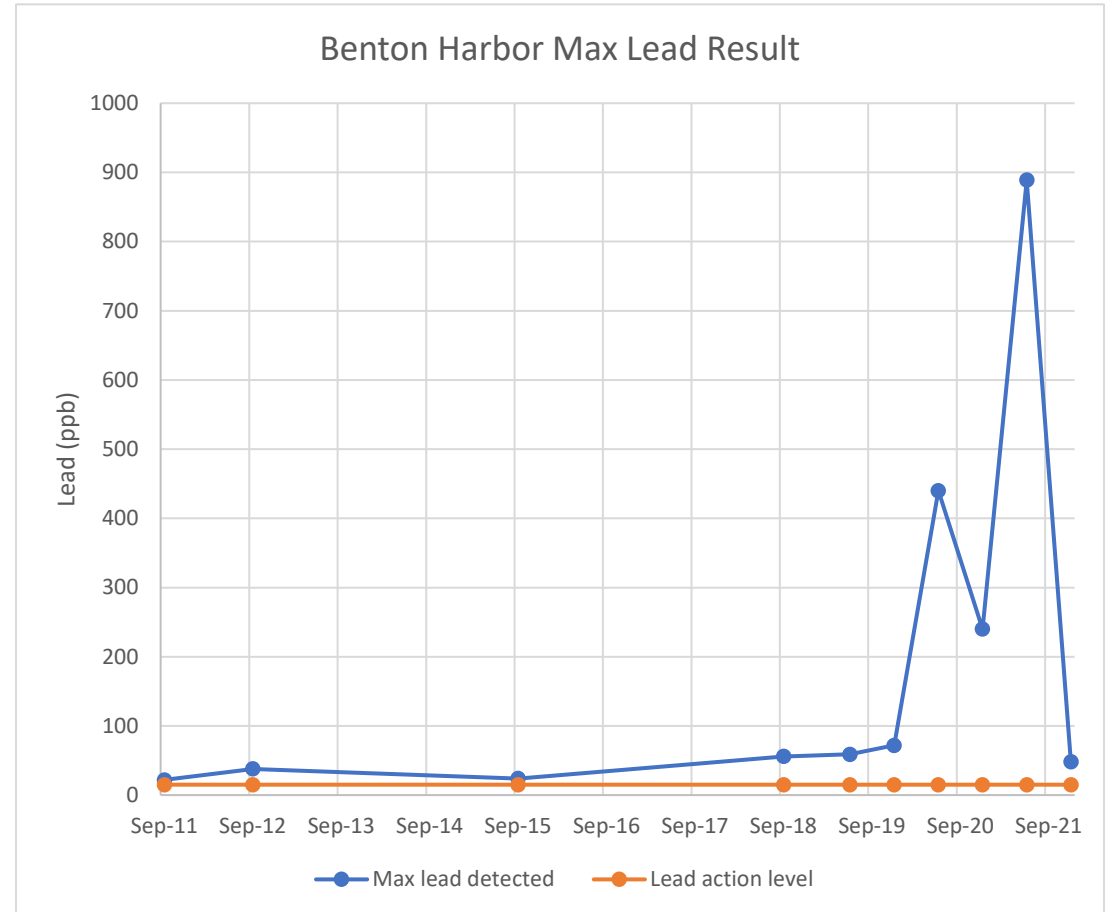
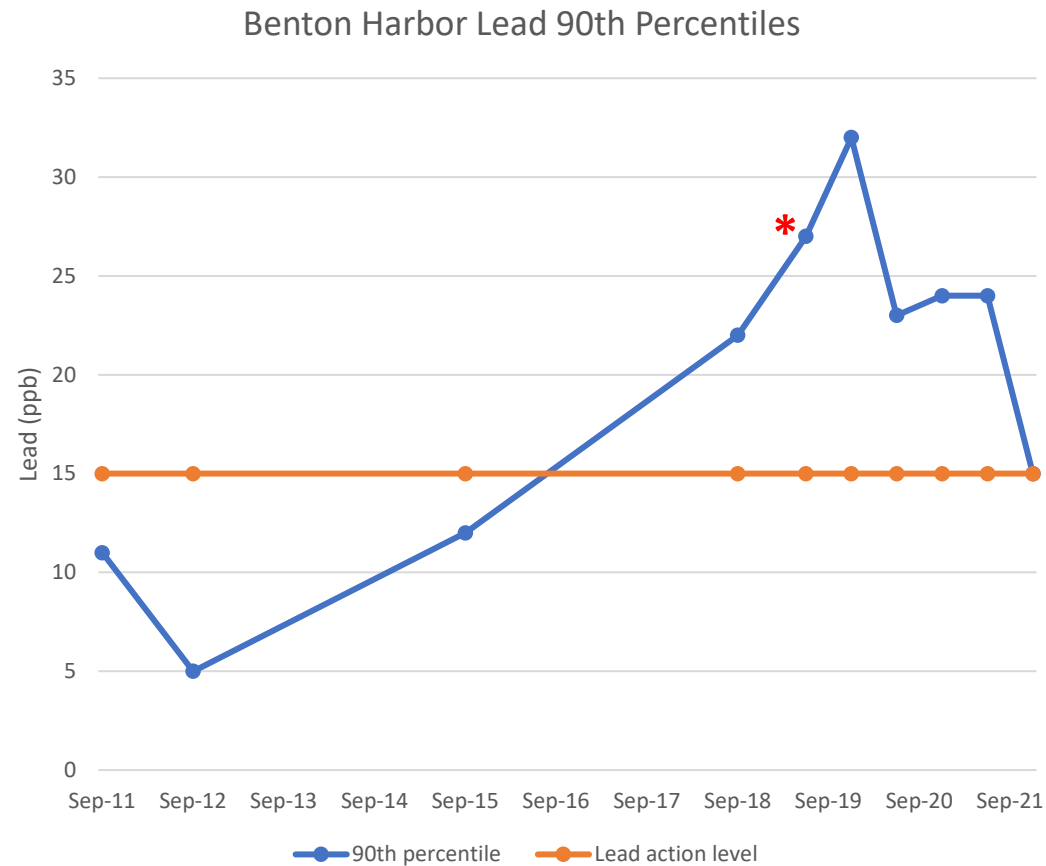


Sampling Under the Revised Michigan Lead and Copper Rule



Source: University of Michigan Lead and Copper project FAQ (myumi.ch/JgG1g)

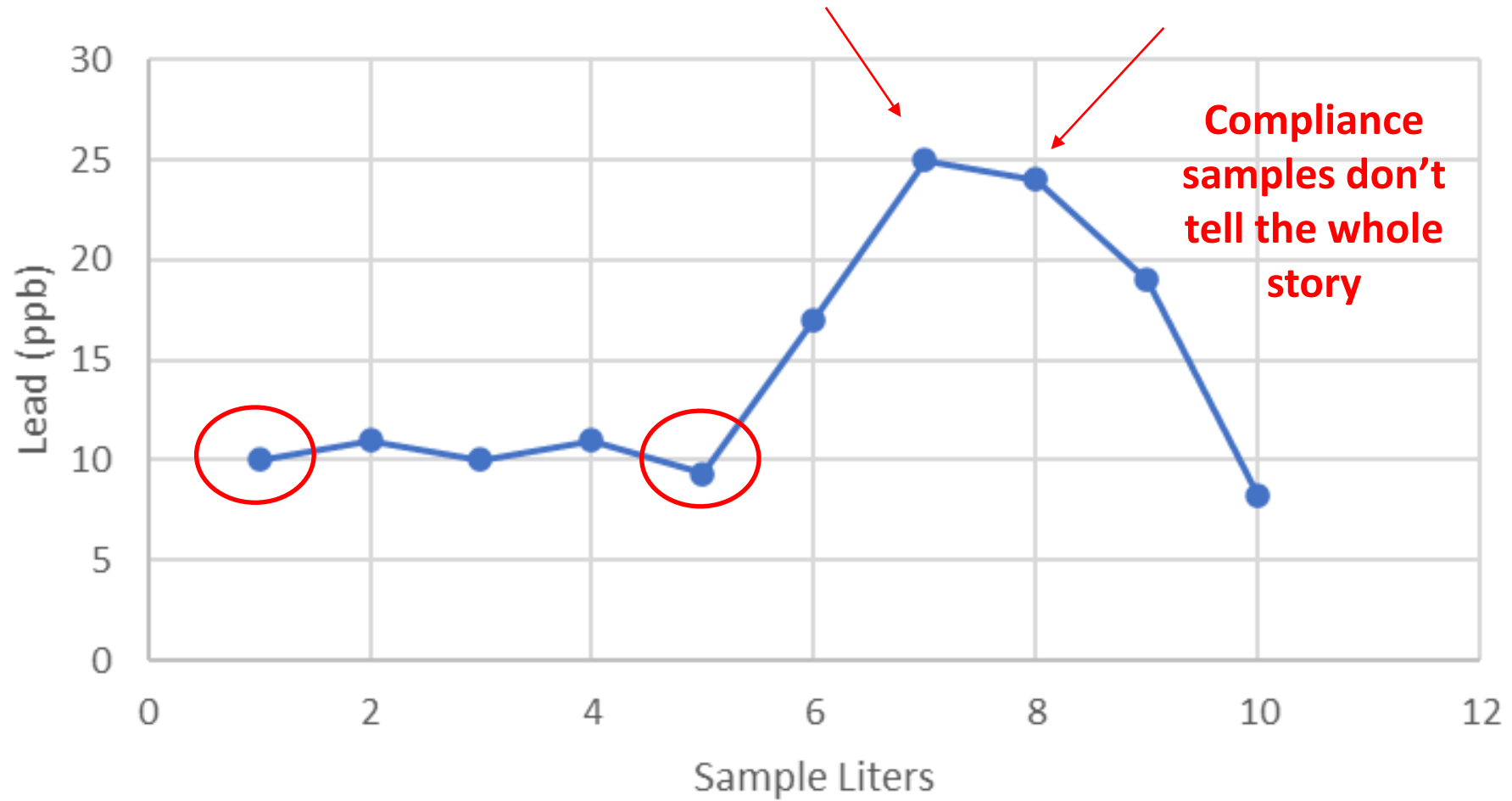
Benton Harbor Lead Compliance Sampling Results



Source: 2011-2021 FOIA Data released by EGLE

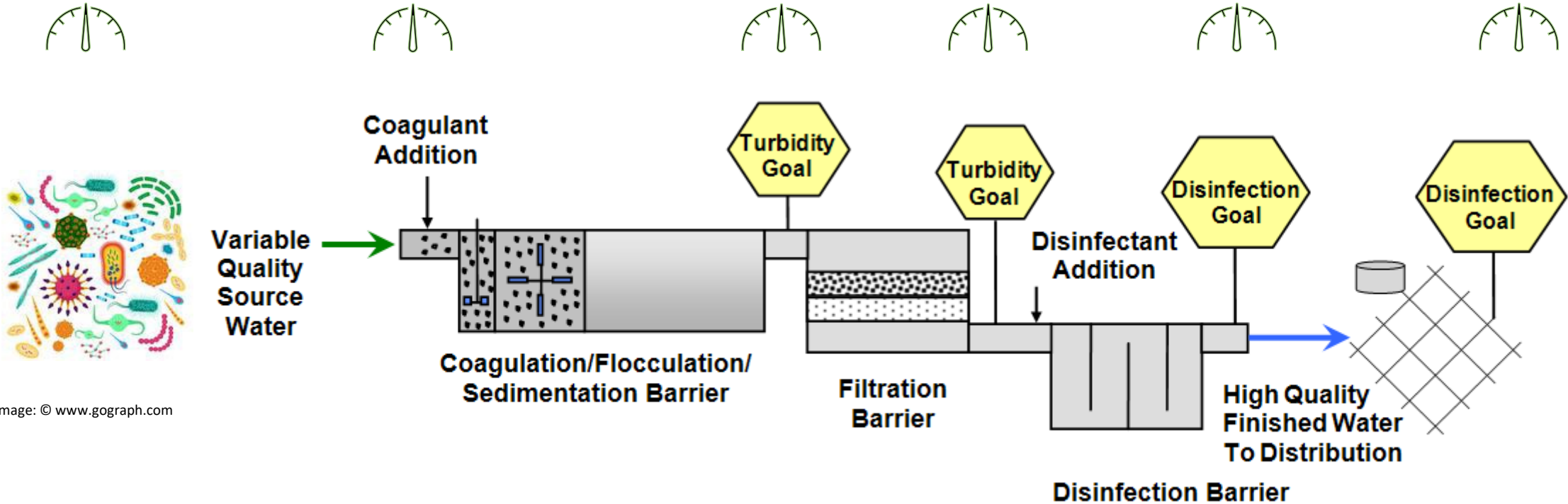
*= Change to 1st and 5th liter sampling under revised Michigan Lead and Copper Rule

Lead Sequential Samples in Benton Harbor

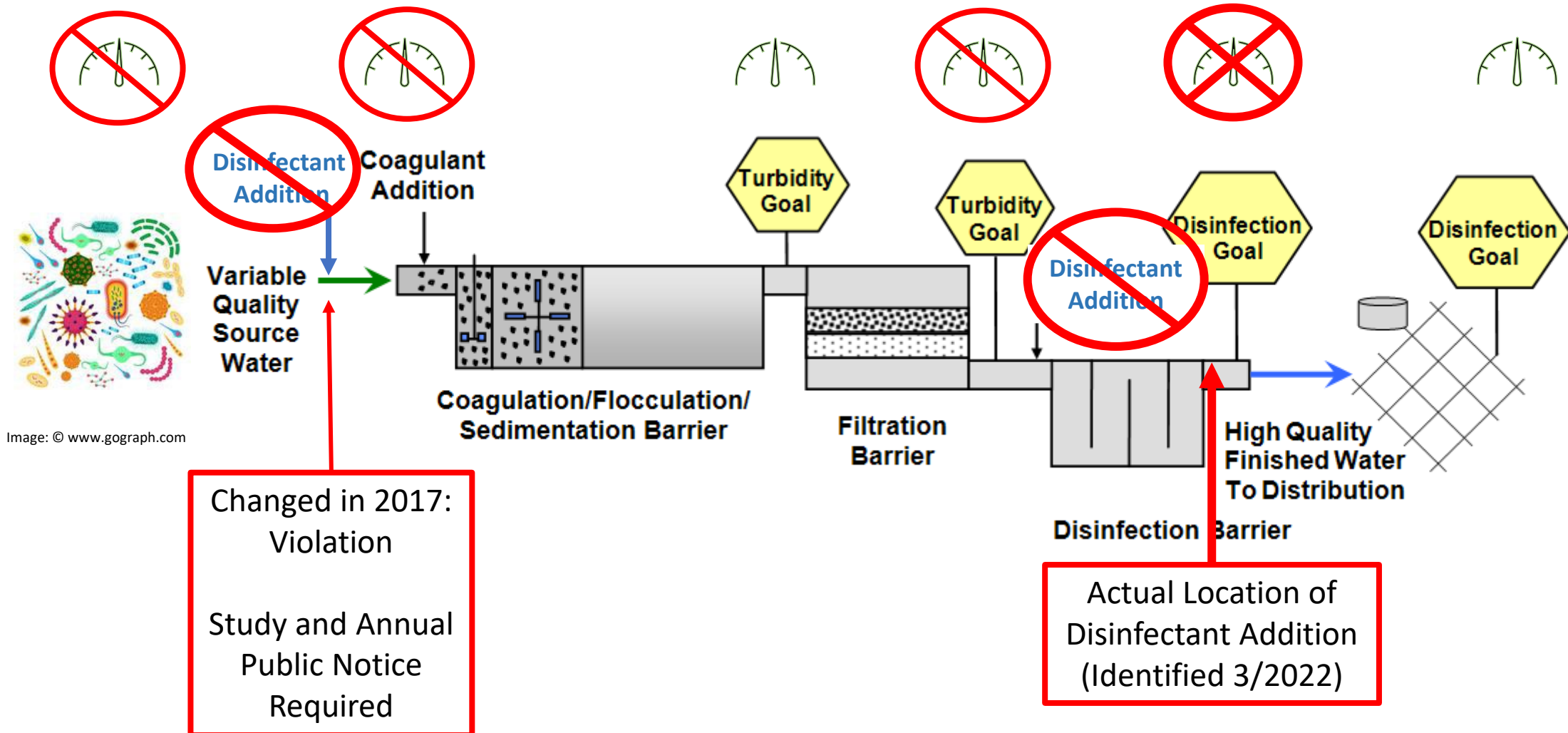


Issues at the Benton Harbor Water Treatment Plant

Conventional Surface Water Treatment Plant



Benton Harbor Water Treatment Plant



In EPA's Own Words...

Data collected through February 2022 do not represent the treatment process

4. During the inspection EPA observed an increase of approximately 1 mg/L in the chlorine residual from the start of the inspection around 8:30 AM to around 10:00 AM. At the time of the inspection, it was EPA's understanding that the chlorine feed was occurring upstream of the reservoirs. Based on where chlorine is being applied to the water upstream of the reservoirs, the amount of chlorine being injected, and the location of the finished water chlorine analyzer taking measurements from the suction well it is highly unlikely that the chlorine dosing was occurring at a location upstream of the reservoirs. In follow up conversation after the inspection, it has been determined that chlorine is being injected into the suction well and not upstream of the filters as previously stated and therefore the chlorine residual spike was being observed during the day operations of the plant. The chlorine dosing directly into the suction well means that the existing continuous chlorine analyzers are not an accurate representation of the residual disinfectant levels throughout the treatment process.

Public Health Messaging to Date Does Not Mention Failures at the Water Treatment Plant

← → ↻ michigan.gov/mileadsafe/Community-Response/benton-harbor

Michigan.gov | MI Lead Safe

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City of Benton Harbor Water Efforts


MI Lead Safe > Community Response > Benton Harbor

Free bottled water continues to be provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for City of Benton Harbor residents for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, rinsing foods and mixing powdered infant formula.

A recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study confirms that certified filters, properly installed and maintained, are effective in reducing lead in Benton Harbor drinking water. The Berrien County Health Department has filters available free of charge.

Tap water can be used for showering or bathing (avoid swallowing water), washing hands, washing dishes, laundry, and cleaning.

Starting May 31, bottled water will be available at **Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (SMCAA)** and the **Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor (B&GC)** at the following dates and times.



Monday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at SMCAA

Tuesday
9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at B&GC

Wednesday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at SMCAA

Thursday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at SMCAA

Friday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at SMCAA

Saturday
12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at B&GC

Sunday
2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at B&GC

You may be eligible for free water deliveries for homebound residents. To learn more, contact 2-1-1.
♻️ Recycling is available at 721 Nate Wells Sr. Drive, Benton Harbor.

Lead service line replacement

A [dashboard](#), created by Abonmarche Consultants, Inc., for the City of Benton Harbor, is updated daily to show progress on the replacement of lead service lines in the City of Benton Harbor, as well as maps.

EPA Filter Study Information



EPA Filter Study Results:

Filters reduce lead but not microbial contaminants

Faucet Mount filters consistently reduce lead below detectable levels



Pitcher Style filters consistently reduce lead below 5 ppb



Use Lead Reducing Filters When The Water Treatment Plant is Fixed

