Public Advisory for Drinking Water Customers in the City of Harper Woods

October 18, 2019

The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act has changed to better protect your health. New water sampling rules have been added to better detect possible lead in your drinking water. These changes require communities with lead service lines to do more sampling. This new sampling method is expected to result in higher lead results, **not because the water source or quality for residents has changed,** but because the Act has more stringent sampling procedures and analysis.

The City of Harper Woods ["the City"] has been conducting testing of tap water in homes with lead service lines for lead and copper in accordance with this Act since 1992. In August and September of 2019, the City collected samples from 30 sites with known or suspected lead service leads. Out of approximately 5,680 water customers in the city, four (4) of the thirty (30) targeted sites tested exceeded the Action Level of 15 ppb (parts per billion). The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy or EGLE (formally the MDEQ) evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of all lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for the City of Harper Woods water supply is 20 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb. This does **not** mean every customer has elevated lead levels. An Action Level exceedance means that more than 10% of the samples tested under the new testing method have elevated lead levels. The City had four (4) of the targeted thirty (30) sites with known lead service leads report elevated lead results.

Of the 5,680 water customers, 1900 lines have been physically assessed by the City which resulted in determining that 71 sites had lead service leads. The City is always looking for more information. Anyone who has a question regarding the composition of their service line may contact the Harper Woods Department of Public Works ["DPW"] at the number and during the hours listed below to schedule an appointment to have their lines inspected. Similarly, also contact the DPW if you are a City water customer and have or think you may have a lead service line and would like to verify your water service line.

The "Action Level" is not a health-based standard, but it is a level that triggers additional actions including, but not limited to, increased investigative sampling of water quality and educational outreach to customers. This is not a violation of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. Because four (4) sites were over the Action Level for lead, the City would like to share some ways you can reduce your exposure to lead since lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water and other sources.

Lead can enter drinking water when in contact with pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead. Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes potential lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required

for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line. Below are some recommended actions to help reduce lead exposure.

- **Run your water to flush out lead-containing water.**
    - If you **do not** have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
    - If you **do** have a lead service line, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from the plumbing of your home and the lead service line.
- **Consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use a certified lead filter to remove lead from their drinking water.**
    - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction.
    - Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
    - If your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, the Wayne County Public Health Division will be at the City of Harper Woods Library located at 19601 Harper on Monday, October 21st and Tuesday, October 22nd between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM to provide one lead filter at no cost for those that qualify.
- **Use cold water for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula.**
- **Do not boil** your water as boiling will not reduce the amount of lead in water.
- Clean your faucet aerator to remove trapped debris.
- Check whether your home has a lead service line. You can contact the City's Department of Public Works at 313-343-2570 between the hours of 7:30 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Friday for this information.
- Anyone with health-related questions can contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-648-6942.

As part of the State's compliance requirements, the City will soon provide a comprehensive public education document with further information about lead in drinking water. We will be collecting sixty (60) samples every six (6) months and reviewing the results to determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.
To have your drinking water tested for lead, you can contact EGLE for a list of laboratories certified for lead and copper testing or visit their website at www.michigan.gov/EGLElab
Additional information regarding the new regulations and lead safety can be found on the City's website https://www.harperwoodscity.org or on the EGLE website at: www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory or www.michigan.gov/MILeadSafe.
The City of Harper Woods strongly encourages you to carefully read this advisory and consult the websites mentioned above. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.