**Instructions for Consumer Notice of Lead Tap Sample Results**

No later than 30 days after water systems learn individual tap sample results, water systems must notify the persons at the specific sampling site from which the sample was taken as required under [10 NYCRR 5-1.47(a)](https://regs.health.ny.gov/volume-title-10/content/section-5-147-notification-and-public-education-requirements#:~:text=(a)%20Notification%20of,5%2D1.72(f)) and [40 CFR 141.85(d)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/part-141/subpart-I#p-141.85(d)). The notification must include all the following information:

* the results of lead tap water monitoring for the tap that was tested,
* an explanation of the health effects of lead,
* list steps consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water and
* contact information for the water utility.
* the maximum contaminant level goal and the action level for lead and the definitions for these two terms from [40 CFR 141.153(c)](https://www.ecfr.gov/on/2021-01-15/title-40/section-141.153#p-141.153(c)).

The NYSDOH developed the following template to ensure this consumer notification meets all federal and State requirements. If you modify the notice, you must still include all required consumer notice elements and **leave all *mandatory language* *as noted in italics* with an asterisk\* on each end on the template unchanged.**

**Consumer Notification Template for Lead Tap Sample Results**

Public Water System Name:

Public Water System ID: NY Sample Date:

Sample Location:

Dear [Insert Name],

We would like to thank you for your participation in the lead tap monitoring program. Below is the lead result for the sample location listed above. General information concerning lead in drinking water follows. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s website 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.

If you need more information concerning this result, please call the **[Insert Water System Name]** at **[Insert Phone Number]** and ask for **[Insert Contact Name]**.

**ONLY the statement that is checked below applies to your sample location.**

[ ]  Lead was NOT DETECTED at this sample location.

[ ]  Lead was detected at **[Insert Level]** mg/L (ppm). This result is BELOW the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L (ppm).

[ ]  Lead was detected at **[Insert Level]** mg/L (ppm). This result is ABOVE the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L (ppm).

**What is an Action Level?**

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in homes or buildings that are likely to have elevated levels of lead, including those with lead service lines. We compare sample results from those homes/buildings to NYS and federal action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10% of the samples from these homes have lead concentrations that exceed the action level, the system must take required actions such as conducting public education, adjusting treatment, and replacing lead service lines.

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.

**What are the 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.\**

**What are the Sources of Lead?**

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is rarely found in source water but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials, such as service lines, lead or brass faucets, fittings, and valves that contain lead. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder.

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

If you are concerned about the lead levels at your location, there are several things you can do separately or in combination:

* **Run your water to flush out lead.** 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. **[Include tailored flushing information, if appropriate, or add the following language]** Residents may contact us at **[phone number and/or email address]** for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
* **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 [*https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet*](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet)and EPA’s [*Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead.*](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.
* **Use cold water**. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
* **[Areas prone to drought or currently experiencing scarcity of water may want to omit or edit this recommendation.]** **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. **[Include tailored flushing information, if appropriate, or add the following language]** Residents may contact us at **[phone number and/or email address]** for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
* **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at **[phone number and/or email address]** or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. **[For systems replacing lead service lines consider the following text.]** To find out aboutwhat we are doing to replace lead service lines, please visit **[website]** or contact us at **[phone number and/or email address]**. [*Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead*](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0) is EPA’s online step-by-step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
* **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at **[phone number and/or email address]** 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.
* **Have your water tested.** Contact us at **[phone number and/or email address]** to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.