

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION
FOLLOWING A LEAD ACTION LEVEL EXCEEDANCE**

The Federal Lead and Copper Rule (40 C.F.R. Part 141, Subpart I) requires that following a lead action level exceedance, a water system must provide public education all users. Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division (Division) policy is to require systems provide public education to system users within 24 hours of receipt of laboratory results.

The template that follows includes the required health language and definitions. It also includes fields the water system must fill in: water system name & WSID #; sample collection date(s); 90th percentile lead level; lead service line and corrosion control information; water system contact information; and distribution date. Additional information may be provided in the space near the end of the report where applicable, e.g., an explanation of corrosion control treatment used at the water system, or plans for additional testing. If your water system has lead service lines or goosenecks/pigtails, you may need to increase the recommended flushing time in the education.

Lead is most often reported by laboratories in units of mg/L. When distributing public notice like this, the EPA requires that the notice contain whole numbers to be easier to understand. To convert from mg/L to ppb, multiply the result by 1000 or move the decimal three places to the right. Two examples:

$$0.1000 \text{ mg/L} = 0.100 \text{ mg/L} = 100 \text{ ppb} \quad | \quad 0.0250 \text{ mg/L} = 0.025 \text{ mg/L} = 25 \text{ ppb}$$

Community water systems must provide education to all users by direct delivery which includes mailing letters, hand-delivering notices, or leaving notices in living units. Where there are multiple owners or rental tenants, the water system must make every attempt to provide education to them in addition to the primary owner. Additional efforts should be made to provide information to childcare centers, schools, obstetricians/gynecologists, midwives, pediatricians, and others serving sensitive populations.

Community systems must repeat education quarterly (such as in bills or newsletters) by providing the following statement until a round of compliance monitoring without a lead action level exceedance (until a 90th percentile less than or equal to 15ppb). Replace the language in brackets: “[name of water system] found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call [phone number] [or visit [website] if applicable].”

Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) water systems must reach all users via posting near taps where practical, handouts in employee mailboxes, posting on bulletin boards in hallways and breakrooms, or similar means. NTNC schools must provide information to staff, students, and parents/guardians.

The templates are followed by a **Certification Form** to be mailed or faxed to the Division documenting who distributed the education, when, and how. Include a copy of the education with the Certification Form. Certification is due 10 days after delivery of education.

Email may be used as a notification method only if the water system has current email addresses that are used for communication routinely. Emails must be sent with a clear subject line about lead in drinking water, and with a return receipt setting if possible. Users without email addresses or whose email addresses generate errors must be contacted by the water system by other means such as a letter. The notice information must be included as text within the email. An attachment or web link may be provided but not take the place of text within the body of the email. A copy of the email notice must be submitted to the Division along with the Certification Form, similar to the process for paper letters.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The _____ water system (Water System ID # _____) found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. 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 Does a Lead Action Level Exceedance Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that lead in water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow, including distributing this information. The most recent round of sampling performed on _____ resulted in a 90th percentile level of _____ ppb for lead, which is an action level exceedance.

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. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider for information on testing your child's blood for lead.

Sources of Lead

The primary sources of lead exposure are deteriorating lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

Lead is rarely found in a water system's surface or groundwater source, but may enter drinking water if plumbing materials such as solder or fixtures, including some made of chrome or brass, contain lead and corrode. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have plumbing, solder, and fixtures that contain lead. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead In Your Water

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. (The samples the water system is required to collect for testing must be taken after the water was sitting in the pipes for at least 6 hours, known as "first-draw" samples.)
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. FDA set a limit for lead in bottled water of 5 ppb. Not all water filters remove lead. Check the product for independent testing from a group such as NSF International (NSF.org, 800-673-8010) that verifies a specific model of filter removes lead.
- **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the phone number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead by a certified laboratory. Results may differ between first-draw water and water collected after the tap has been flushed.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures that contain lead.** The amount of lead allowed in plumbing solder and fixtures has been reduced by several state and federal laws over the last few decades.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

The water system has

- no known lead service lines
- full or partial lead service lines in some areas
- lead “gooseneck” or “pigtail” connections to service lines in some areas

The water system

- has chemical treatment to reduce corrosion
- does not have corrosion control treatment

Additional information:

For More Information

Call us at _____ or visit our web site (if available) at

For more information on reducing lead exposure and the health effects of lead, visit the U.S. EPA website www.epa.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-5323 or call your health care provider.

For information about the Lead and Copper Rule, contact the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division website <http://dec.vermont.gov/water/> (search for Lead and Copper Rule) or call 802-585-4891.

Date distributed: _____



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division

	FORM
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LEAD PUBLIC EDUCATION DELIVERY CERTIFICATION

Water System Name: _____

WSID #: _____ Population Size Served: _____

Within 24 hours of being notified of laboratory results showing a 90th percentile lead action level exceedance (greater than 15ppb), the water system must distribute lead public education according to the instructions on the first page of this document. Within 10 days of delivering the education, the water system must submit a copy of the public education document and this form certifying that the system met the delivery requirements of the Lead & Copper Rule to the Division.

NTNC systems may reach all users via posting. Community systems need delivery to all users by other means and additional efforts to reach sensitive populations as explained on the instruction page.

Delivery Method(s) and Date(s):

- Hand or Direct Delivery on _____
- Notification via US Mail posted _____
- Television or Radio, aired on _____
- Ad in local newspaper, enclose a copy, published on _____
- Email (see special instructions) on _____
- Quarterly repeat education in newsletter or bill insert on _____
- Notices sent to parents (NTNC schools only) on _____
- Posting in a conspicuous location (primarily NTNC systems; describe below) on _____
- Other (describe) _____ on _____

I certify, as the responsible person (or authorized representative) of the water system indicated above, the public education has been provided to customers in accordance with the delivery, content and format requirements and deadlines in the Vermont Water Supply Rule (Chapter 21 – Subchapter 6). All lead education materials meet the written content requirements and that notice was either posted (NTNC) or delivered to users (Community or NTNC) as indicated above.

Certification by the Administrative Contact or the Water System Operator:

Print Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail or fax this form to:

Attn: Lead & Copper Rule Administrator
Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division
1 National Life Dr, Main 2
Montpelier VT 05620-3521

Fax: 1-802-828-1541

*To preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health,
for the benefit of this and future generations.*