



# CITY OF HAZEL PARK

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

111 East Nine Mile Road • Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

**For immediate release on 07-22-2020**

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY FOR DRINKING WATER CUSTOMERS IN THE CITY OF HAZEL PARK**

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 Hazel Park has been conducting testing of tap water in homes with lead service lines for lead and copper in accordance with the Act since 1992.

In 2019 and 2020, the City collected samples from targeted sites with known lead service lines and found elevated lead levels. In the most recent round of sampling ten (10) of the sixty-two (62) targeted sites exceeded the Action Level of 15 ppb (parts per billion).

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (“EGLE”) evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of all lead and copper results collected in this round of sampling. In the most recent round monitoring period, the City had ten (10) of sixty-two (62) sites report elevated lead results. The lead 90th percentile for the City of Hazel Park water supply is 18 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15ppb. This does not mean every customer has exceeded 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 “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 ten (10) sites were over the Action Level for lead, the City of Hazel Park, in conjunction with EGLE, would like to share some ways you reduce 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 lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for houses 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 your home or building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- Consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water. Public health recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use a certified lead filter to remove lead from their drinking water, especially when preparing baby formula.
  - 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, please contact the Oakland County Health Department.
- Use cold water for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula.
- Do not use hot water for drinking, preparing food, cooking, or preparing baby formula.
- Boiling your water 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 Water Department at (248) 546-4076 for this information.
- Anyone with health-related questions can contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at 1 (800) 648-6942; or the Oakland County Nurse on call at (800) 848-5533 or [noc@oakgov.com](mailto:noc@oakgov.com).

While the Action Level exceedance is not a violation of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, the City of Hazel Park is and has been working with EGLE to ensure the welfare of water customers and compliance requirements with the Act. The City of Hazel Park has previously provided information to water customers with known lead service lines; sent all water customers information with practical steps they can take to reduce the risk to lead exposure; mailed quarterly postcards providing sampling results; and facilitated an open-house in 2019 whereby the MDHHS and the Oakland County Health Department distributed filters and/or replacement cartridges to eligible households. The City of Hazel Park will soon provide another comprehensive education

document with information about lead in drinking water. We will be collecting samples and reviewing the results to determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing. Service lines have two parts: a public side from the road to your curbside and the private side from the curbside into your home. The City of Hazel Park has no known lead water mains within the water system. There are approximately 438 known private lead service lines within the water system. Remember, lead may enter tap water through the corrosion of a home's service line or plumbing materials when those materials contain lead.

If you are a Hazel Park water customer and have or think you may have a lead service line to your home and would like to verify your water service line, you can contact the City's Water Department at (248) 546-4076. 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](http://www.michigan.gov/EGLElab).

If you are operating a food establishment such as a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment, please visit this page [www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo) for specific information for food establishments.

Additional information regarding the new regulations and lead safety can be found at the City of Hazel Park's website at: <http://www.hazelpark.org/leadtesting> or on the EGLE website [www.Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe](http://www.Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe).

<b>Is it OK to use lead-containing water to wash my hands?</b>		
<b>Yes!</b> Human skin does not easily absorb lead from water.		
	<p>Even if you have lead in your drinking water, you can wash your hands with water that is not filtered or flushed.</p> <p>Public Health advises residents to wash hands often and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).</p>	<p>You can use water that has not been filtered or flushed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing the water)</li> <li>○ Washing hands, dishes, or clothes</li> <li>○ Cleaning</li> </ul>
To learn more please visit, <a href="http://Michigan.gov/coronavirus">Michigan.gov/coronavirus</a> or <a href="http://Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe">Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe</a>		

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the Oakland County Health Department will provide complimentary water filters and replacement cartridges for qualifying households on the following days:

## **How to Get a Water Filter or Replacement Cartridge During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Water filters and replacement cartridges will be available for eligible Hazel Park residents.

Drive-Thru Filter or Replacement Cartridge Pick-Up Events

Thursday, July 30, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. through 6:30 p.m.

and

Thursday, August 6, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. through 6:30 p.m.

at:

Hazel Park Ice Arena Parking Lot  
1555 E. Woodward Heights Blvd.  
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Beginning Wednesday, July 22, 2020, eligible residents in need of a water filter or replacement cartridges, can call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 1 (517) 284-1283 to schedule a delivery.

If we miss your call, please leave a message with your name and phone number. We will call you back as soon as possible. Stay home, stay safe!

**To qualify, your household must have at least one of the following:**

- A child under age 18 living in the household.
- A child under age 18 spending several hours every week at least 3 months of the year in the household. (Note: For-profit daycares are not eligible)
- A pregnant woman living in the household.

**And your household has at least one of the following:**

- Someone receiving WIC benefits and/or Medicaid insurance.
- Difficulty affording a filter and replacement cartridges (filters cost about \$35 and replacement cartridges cost about \$15).