For immediate release on 10-23-2019

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.

Recently, the City collected samples from 30 targeted sites with known lead service lines. Three (3) of the thirty (30) targeted sites exceeded the Action Level of 15 ppb (parts per billion). Thereafter, during the sampling monitoring period, an emergency lead service replacement occurred. Pursuant to the testing rules, the City was required to submit a sample from this emergency repair for testing, and this test showed a site that exceeded the Action Level.

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. During the monitoring period, the City had four (4) of the total thirty-one (31) sites report elevated lead results, one of which was an emergency lead service repair site. The lead 90th percentile for the City of Hazel Park water supply is 16 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb. 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 four (4) sites, three (3) targeted and the one (1) emergency service line repair, 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.

Below are some recommended actions to help reduce lead exposure. 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 homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.
• **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 of 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.
    - 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 your County Health Department.
  - **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.

**Representatives from Hazel Park and Oakland County will be holding an informational meeting from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hazel Park City Hall, 111 E. 9 Mile, Hazel Park, MI 48030, on Friday, October 25, 2019. At that time, the Oakland County Health Division will be distributing free lead filters if your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter. You may also inquire about checking whether your home has a lead service line.**

• 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 Oakland County Nurse on call at (800) 848-5533 or noc@oakgov.com.

Working with EGLE to ensure the welfare of water customers and compliance requirements with the Act, the City of Hazel Park will soon provide a comprehensive 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. The City of Hazel Park has no known public lead service lines within the water system. Rather, lead may enter tap water through the corrosion of a home’s service line or plumbing materials.

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, 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).