



City of Hamtramck
3401 Evaline
Hamtramck, MI 48212
(313) 800-5233

October 20, 2021

Karen Majewski
Mayor

Kathleen Angerer
City Manager

Fadel Al-Marsoumi
Mayor Pro-Tem

Mohammed Alsomiri
City Council Member

Saad Almasmari
City Council Member

Nayeem Choudhury
City Council Member

Mohammed Hassan
City Council Member

Carrie Beth Lasley
City Council Member

Dear Hamtramck Neighbor:

Each year the City of Hamtramck conducts testing of tap water in homes for lead and copper. As required by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), lead and copper samples are collected from homes that have lead service lines. We recently collected samples from 42 homes.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for the City's water supply is 17 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb.

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 in accordance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. The goal for lead in drinking water is 0 ppb; there is no safe level of lead in the blood.

The City of Hamtramck has partnered with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to distribute one free water filter with replacement cartridges, per address, to Hamtramck residents on October 21, 2021 from 11am until 2 pm in the Hamtramck Town Center parking lot located at 9521 Joseph Campau. Additional distribution events will be scheduled and posted in the upcoming weeks.

Because six sites were over the Action Level for lead, the City of Hamtramck 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 in 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.

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

- 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 three to five minutes to flush water from your home of building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- Everyone can consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use cold water and 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.
 - For filters to work properly, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
 - If your household has a child or pregnant woman and you are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, please contact the Wayne County Health Department.
- Use cold tap water for drinking, cooking or preparing food, 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. The City of Hamtramck will soon send a comprehensive public education document about lead in drinking water. We will be collecting water samples from 60 homes every six months and reviewing the results to determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.

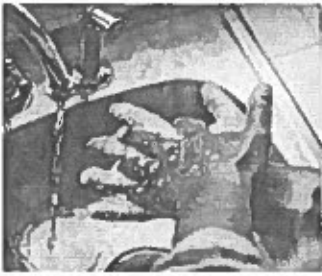
In 2019, The City of Hamtramck began a Lead Service Line replacement program. EGLE has mandated that all Michigan cities replace every lead service line within their community over the next several years. By December 2021, the City will have completed over 300 Lead Service Line replacements.

If you are a City of Hamtramck water customer and would like your service line inspected or would like to have your drinking water tested for lead, please contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Drinking Water Hotline for free water testing. Call MDHHS at 844-934-1315.

If any resident wants their child's blood screened for Lead or a test for themselves, you may go through your own health care provider or you can schedule an appointment with the Wayne County Healthy Communities local office. This office is also offering COVID-19 vaccinations, and childhood immunizations.

9021 Joseph Campau Ave,
Hamtramck, MI 48212
Phone: 313-871-1926

If you are operating a food establishment such a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo for specific information for food firms. Additional information regarding lead can be found at The City Hamtramck's website, <https://hamtramck.us> or at EGLE websites: Michigan.gov/EGLELeadPublicAdvisory or Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe.

Is it OK to use lead-containing water to wash my hands?		
Yes! Human skin does not easily absorb lead from water.		
	<p>Even if you have <u>lead</u> in your drinking water, you can wash your hands with water that is not filtered or flushed.</p>	<p>You can use water that has not been filtered or flushed for:</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing the water) ○ Washing hands, dishes, or clothes ○ Cleaning 	
To learn more please visit, Michigan.gov/coronavirus or Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe		

Sincerely,



Karen Majewski, Mayor



Kathleen Angerer, City Manager

MICHIGAN

Lead found in Hamtramck water samples

Niraj Warikoo Detroit Free Press

Published 3:45 p.m. ET Oct. 20, 2021 | Updated 6:45 p.m. ET Oct. 20, 2021

The city of Hamtramck said Wednesday it has discovered high levels of lead in some water samples.

Out of 42 samples that officials recently took as part of routine testing, six of them had levels of lead above what are called "Action Levels," the city said in a letter to residents posted on its website.

Free water filters will be provided Thursday for residents from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Hamtramck Town Center parking lot, 9521 Jos. Campau. The city is working on additional sites and times, too.

"Out of the 42 addresses, six of them failed," Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski told the Free Press. Majewski said the city has been working on replacing older lead lines, but needs more state resources to finish the job.

"It takes a while to make it through," she said. "We could step it up with more help from the state."

Majewski and City Manager Kathleen Angerer signed the letter sent to residents.

"Each year the City of Hamtramck conducts testing of tap water in homes for lead and copper," the letter reads. "As required by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), lead and copper samples are collected from homes that have lead service lines. We recently collected samples from 42 homes. ... The lead 90th percentile for the City's water supply is 17 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb."

"I am deeply concerned about the elevated lead levels that appeared in recent testing," state Rep. Abraham Aiyash, D-Hamtramck, told the Free Press. "My office is in close contact with Department of EGLE, and other state and city officials. Our top priority now is addressing the immediate needs of our residents to ensure they are informed and take the appropriate safety measures."

More: CVS Health hires Dr. Joneigh Khaldun to be its first chief health equity officer

More: Benton Harbor urged to use bottled water due to lead risk

Aiyash added that Hamtramck needs to get "the support necessary to address the structural dangers of lead service lines immediately. I will be working hard to secure dollars to continue this work at an accelerated rate."

Majewski said that "we're doing what we can, but to keep our residents safe, we really need more support from the state to meet those mandates" to replace old lines.

Lead has been a problem over the years in other municipalities in Michigan and across the U.S. In Flint starting in 2014, water that wasn't properly treated went through old pipes that leached lead into drinking water. And this year, Benton Harbor residents have voiced concern about lead contamination and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer visited the city this week to hear their complaints.

Hamtramck's letter offered tips for residents.

"The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain," the letter reads. "Therefore, if your water has not been used in 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."

If you're operating a restaurant, food store, or food manufacturing center, visit www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo for more information.

Contact Niraj Warikoo at nwarikoo@freepress.com or Twitter @nwarikoo

The city of Hamtramck has partnered with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to distribute one free water filter with replacement cartridges, for each address, to Hamtramck residents on Thursday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Hamtramck Town Center parking lot located at 9521 Jos. Campau. Additional distribution events will be scheduled and posted.