**Lead Action Level Exceedance (ALE)**

**24-Hour Tier 1 Public Notice Instructions**

**This document contains:**

* **Instructions** (page **1**)
* 24-Hour Lead ALE Tier 1 PN **Template** (pages **2-4**)
* 24-Hour Lead ALE Tier 1 PN **Certification** (page **5**)

**Instructions**:

* Complete each highlighted and bracketed field of the PN template with your PWS information.

* The PN template can be edited to best represent your public water system’s specific ALE, but the PN must contain all 9 required elements listed on the certification page.
* Italicized language is mandatory and cannot be changed or removed.
* Distribute the PN and submit copies to [DWPMOR@maine.gov](mailto:DWPMOR@maine.gov) within 24 hours of becoming aware of the Lead ALE.
* Complete the certification page and submit it to [DWPMOR@maine.gov](mailto:DWPMOR@maine.gov) within 10 days of PN distribution.

**DRINKING WATER NOTICE**

**INSERT PWS NAME**

**INSERT PWS ID #**

**Sampling shows high levels of lead in some homes and/or buildings.**

During recent water testing, **[INSERT NAME OF WATER SYSTEM]** found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Your home or building may have been tested. If so, you should receive or may have already received these results, which are specific to your home/building and may be different from the results taken in other locations. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant persons and young children. Please read the information provided to learn about lead and see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

**What is an Action Level?**

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in water systems or a measure of whether untreated water is corrosive. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working or if untreated water is corrosive, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare their sample results to EPA’s action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10 percent of the samples have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education, installing or adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

**What Happened?**

Between **[Month/Year]** and **[Month/Year]**, we collected **[insert # of samples]** samples and analyzed them for lead. The results of 10 percent or more of our samples exceeded the action level for lead.

We are focused on protecting the health of every household in our community; however, lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. **[Describe any system specific sources of lead, if known.]** We found that **[insert source(s) of lead e.g., lead service lines, lead in plumbing, etc.]** are potentialsources of lead in your drinking water. This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water has lead. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit [https://www.epa.gov/lead.](https://www.epa.gov/lead)

**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. \**

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

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

* **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-*](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet)[*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](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf) [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.
* **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. Residents may contact us for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
* **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us 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 about what we are doing to replace lead service lines, please visit **[website]** or contact us. [Protect Your Tap: A quick check](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0) [for lead](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0) is EPA’s on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
* **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us 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 to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

**Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in His or Her Blood**

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child’s blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC’s website, please visit [https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water) [drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water)

For the Maine CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, please call 207-287-4311 or visit <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/eohp/lead/index.shtml>.

**What is Being Done?**

Our public water system is taking the following actions to address the situation:

**[Insert any actions the system is taking to resolve the ALE and when, which could include:**

* **Additional lead and copper or water quality parameter sampling and when it will occur.**
* **Removal of lead-containing plumbing material and fixtures (describe where and when).**
* **Development of a corrosion control treatment plan.**
* **Evaluation of current corrosion control treatment or installation of corrosion control treatment and approximate timeline.**
* **Lead service line replacement activities and when they will occur.**
* **The system determined that alternative water supplies should be used (describe who, where, and for how long).**
* **Providing point-of-use (POU) or pitcher filters to customers (describe who, where, and when).**
* **Providing bottled water to customers (describe who, where, and when).]**

We will also be providing this public notice to persons served at the locations we sampled, and we will be following up with additional distribution of public education materials to all our customers by **[insert date no later than 60 days from the end of the monitoring period].**

**Contact Information**

For more information, please contact **[name of water utility contact]** at **[phone number]** or **[email]** or **[mailing address]** or **[website]**. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk from lead in drinking water are available from EPA’s website:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

This notice is being sent to you by **[INSERT PWS NAME]** PWS ID: **[INSERT PWS ID #]** on **[INSERT DISTRIBUTION DATE].**

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\**

**Lead Action Level Exceedance (ALE)**

**24-Hour Tier 1 Public Notice Certification**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Submit this completed certification within **10 days** of PN distributionto **DWPMOR@maine.gov.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DISTRIBUTION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PUBLIC NOTICE CONTENT CHECKLIST:** The checkbox list certifies that each of these required elements is included in your Tier 1 PN materials that were distributed. *All checkbox items are required.*

 What happened – You exceeded the lead action level.

 When the lead ALE occurred.

 The **mandatory** health effects language.

 Whether alternative water supplies should be used.

 What actions consumers should take.

 What you are doing to address the lead ALE.

 When you expect to resolve the lead ALE.

 Contact information for your water system owner, operator, or designee.

 The **mandatory** statement to share the PN.

**PUBLIC NOTICE DISTRIBUTION METHOD:** Indicate the delivery method(s) used. You must use one or more of the following methods and must ensure that the chosen methods are designed to reach all of your customers. *Check all that apply.*

 Email to all consumers.

 Hand delivery to all consumers served.

 Appropriate broadcast media (radio and television).

 Posting the notice in prominent locations in the PWS service area *(Secondary method only. Must be combined with another primary method.).*

 Alternative method approved by the State in writing.

**PUBLIC NOTICE CERTIFICATION:** By signing, you certify and attest that you have notified consumers about your Action Level Exceedance (ALE) for lead in accordance with the delivery, content, format requirements, and deadlines, as specified by the Maine Drinking Water Program.

**PWS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **PWS ID:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*(SIGNATURE)* *(DATE)*