

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – DOWAGIAC, MI**

**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

A recent review by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has resulted in a re-evaluation of the City of Dowagiac’s 2022 lead and copper compliance. Additional documentation provided during EPA’s review and a follow-up investigation by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) found that four homes sampled between June and September 2022 did not meet the site selection criteria specified in the Safe Drinking Water Act. Therefore, samples collected from these sites cannot be used for compliance and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile has been recalculated.

The original compliance calculation was based on samples collected from 21 homes and resulted in a lead 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of 15 parts per billion (ppb). The recalculated lead 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is based on samples collected from the remaining 17 homes and resulted in a **90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of 17 ppb, which exceeds the lead Action Level of 15 ppb.**

**2022 Lead Sampling Information and Recalculations**

	<b>Previously Calculated</b>	<b>Recalculated</b>
Lead 90th Percentile Value	15 ppb	<b>17 ppb</b>
Number of samples used in 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Calculation	21	<b>17</b>
Range of <b>lead</b> results	0 – 21 ppb	0 – 21 ppb

Compliance with the Action Level is based on the 90th percentile of lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling.

The “Action Level” is a measure of corrosion control effectiveness; it is not a health-based standard. The goal for lead in drinking water is 0 ppb; there is no safe level of lead in the blood.

An “Action Level exceedance” means that more than 10% of the homes tested have results over 15 ppb. An exceedance triggers additional actions including educational outreach to customers, increased sampling, and service line replacement.

**Reducing Your Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water**

Every water customer should be aware of possible sources of lead, how it gets into drinking water, and things they can do to reduce exposure. Check whether your home has a lead service line. Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water.

Lead can enter drinking water when in contact with pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead. 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.

Dowagiac 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.

### How to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking 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 at least five minutes to flush water from your home or building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- Everyone can consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends every household use a certified lead filter to reduce lead from their drinking water, especially households with a child, or a child frequently visits the home, pregnant person, or individual with high blood pressure, or people residing in houses built before 1987. MDHHS also recommends making baby formula or cooking with filtered water.
  - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I).
  - For filters to work properly, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
  - DHHS recommends that filter cartridges are replaced every two months.
  - **MDHHS is offering free certified lead-reducing filters and replacement cartridges to eligible households. These criteria are:**
    - **Has a child under the age of 19 on Medicaid who resides in the home, or**
    - **Is a pregnant person on Medicaid.**
  - **The City will provide one filter per household served by the City of Dowagiac water utility for those who do not qualify for free MDHHS filters.**
  - **Filters can be obtained at:**

#### **City of Dowagiac City Hall**

241 S. Front Street  
Dowagiac, MI  
Phone: 269-782-2195  
Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct 7, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct 14, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### **Van Buren- Cass District Health Department**

302 Main Street  
Dowagiac, MI  
Phone: 269-539-5503  
Hours: M-Th 8 a.m. – 4 p.m, Fri 8:00-Noon

**Dowagiac Dial-a-Ride will be available at no charge for customers travel to City Hall to pick up a filter from October 2, 2023 through October 6, 2023 during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call DART at 269-782-3300 for a ride.**

- **Do not use hot water** for drinking, preparing food, or cooking, or preparing 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.

We will soon send a comprehensive public education document about lead in drinking water. We will be collecting additional samples and reviewing the results with EGLE to determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.

If you have questions about

- Service line materials for your home: Dowagiac Customers contact us at 269-782-2195 to learn more about their service line and schedule an inspection.
- Testing your water for lead: Visit [Michigan.gov/EGLElab](https://www.michigan.gov/EGLElab) for a list of certified labs.
- Health related questions: Contact the Van Buren/Cass Community Health Agency at 269-254-7449.
- Operating a food establishment such as a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment: Visit this page [Michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo](https://www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo) for specific information for food firms.
- Regulatory questions about the Safe Drinking Water Act: Contact EGLE at 800-662-9278.

Pokagon Health Services is also providing support for Pokagon Band Citizens. Please contact Pokagon Health Services at 269-782-4141.

Additional information regarding lead can be found at Dowagiac's website [www.cityofdowagiac.com](http://www.cityofdowagiac.com) or at EGLE and MDHHS websites: [Michigan.gov/EGLELeadPublicAdvisory](https://www.michigan.gov/EGLELeadPublicAdvisory) or [Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe](https://www.michigan.gov/MILeadSafe)