



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MENASHA RECEIVES FUNDING TO COMPLETE ALL OF THE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS IN 2022

MENASHA, Wis. (March 22, 2022) – Menasha Utilities is taking action to reduce the lead in the drinking water by utilizing the Safe Drinking Water program to help fund the replacement of the remaining lead services in Menasha in 2022. Menasha has previously reported, lead levels in some homes in the City are above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action limit. Menasha Utilities continuously addresses this health concern and is committed to informing and educating customers about lead.

Menasha Utilities source water, mains, and finished drinking water do not contain lead. Water service laterals owned by the property owner and plumbing in homes built before 1950 are more likely to have lead, and homes built prior to 1984 could have lead solder. When water is in contact with pipes (or service lines) and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

Menasha Utilities takes the following actions to address lead in drinking water:

- The Utility applied and received funding from the Safe Drinking Water program of over \$887,000 from 2017-2021, the Utility/City contributed almost \$90,000 to the program and was awarded \$285,000 for 2022 to complete the replacement of the customer-side of the lead and galvanized services in Menasha. A total of 490 services have been replaced with an estimated 140 services left to complete.
- We continue to perform traditional and uni-directional flushing to remove minerals from water main walls.
- In February 2022 the Utility received approval from the DNR on our corrosion control treatment plan to optimize the water quality treatment processes.
- We will continue to collaborate with the Menasha Health Department to identify lead risks in homes and offer technical assistance to reduce these risks.
- We continue to provide information on our lead program on our website, at community functions and with the Utility bill.

Customers can take these actions to address lead in drinking water:

- Have your water tested for lead by a certified lab. Call Menasha Utilities or visit menashautilities.com for more information.
- If there is potential for elevated levels of lead in your drinking water:
 - Let the water run at least 1-2 minutes until very cold in the morning or if unused for 6 hours.
 - Do not cook with, make baby formula, or drink water from an unfiltered hot water tap.
 - Obtain a water filtration device to remove lead for consumption. Purchase a water filter from the Menasha Health Department, at Utility events, or from stores. Make sure the filter is certified by the National Safety Foundation (NSF) to remove 99% of lead.
- Customers can replace plumbing and other fixtures in the home that contain lead.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the EPA agree there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood. The EPA estimates that 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Other sources include deteriorated lead paint (in homes built before 1978), contaminated soils and dust.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, call the Menasha Health Department, visit the Menasha Health Department's website https://www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov/departments/health/environmental_health/lead.php or the EPA's website <https://www.epa.gov/lead>, or consult with your healthcare provider. Water quality test data for Menasha Utilities can be found on Wisconsin DNR website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingWater/qualityData.html> under public water system ID 47103342.

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