



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27600 Jefferson Ave.
St. Clair Shores,
Michigan 48081

January 20, 2021

**CONTACT: Mary Jane D’Herde
Communications Director
City of St. Clair Shores, MI
586-447-3414
maryjane@scsmi.net**

CITY RESPONDS TO LEAD TESTING RESULTS

St. Clair Shores, MI, January 20, 2021- The City of St. Clair Shores released a public advisory today for its 26,369 water customers after testing water samples from known locations with lead service lines. Results showed that eight (8) of the 62 targeted sites tested exceeded the 15 ppb (parts per billion) 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 each round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for the City of St. Clair Shores water supply was 18 ppb.

The City of St. Clair Shores has been conducting testing of tap water in homes with lead service lines for lead and copper in accordance with this Act since 1992. The City of St. Clair Shores is dedicated to reduce lead exposure in drinking water by providing education, distribution system inventory efforts and lead service line replacements. The City of St. Clair Shores is currently working to replace the 720 lead service lines in our City. To date, the City has replaced approximately 100 lead service lines at a cost of \$400,000. The City is also pursuing grants and loans from the State to help fund and expedite the work. Below is a table of information about each round of sampling over the last two years.

	2019	2020 (Jan-June)	2020 (July-Dec)
Lead 90 th percentile	21 ppb	11 ppb	18 ppb
Copper 90 th percentile	0.1 ppm	0.3 ppb	0.2 ppm
# of sites over 15ppb out of the total # of sites	4 out of 30	3 out of 60	8 out of 62

Of the 26,369 water customers, there are approximately 2.7% (roughly 720 customers) with lead service lines. The City had eight (8) of the targeted 62 sites with known lead service lines report elevated lead levels. The City contacted the homeowners with elevated lead levels and provided them with their sampling results. The City has also offered complimentary faucet filters or pitcher filters to any water customer verified to have lead service lines in their home.

“Although less than 3 percent of our water customers are affected, we want to be proactive and alert all of our water customers—whether their house has lead service lines or not—to be vigilant and take steps to reduce the risk of any lead exposure,” stated Mayor Kip Walby.

“We will continue testing and provide our citizens with information and public education about lead in drinking water and what we as water consumers can do to minimize the risk in our own homes.”

These results do not mean that every customer has 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. The health-based standard for lead is 0 ppb; there is no safe level of lead in drinking water.

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Because eight sites were over the Action Level for lead, the City of St Clair Shores would like to share some ways you can reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water; the City has set up a dedicated webpage on its website at <https://www.scsmi.net/892/SCS-Lead-Safe> that features information and links to lead specific resources. We strongly encourage you to read these documents.

Residents may receive a complimentary water filter by calling the DPW Department directly at 586-447-3305 Monday-Friday 7am to 3:30 PM. Complimentary faucet filters or pitcher filters and replacement cartridges will be available to citizens who meet the following State-mandated qualifications:

- 1) A child under 18 lives at the address
- 2) A person is a caregiver or a child under 18 frequently spends time at this address
- 3) A pregnant woman lives at the address.
- 4) A person receiving WIC benefits or Medicaid insurance lives at this address
- 5) A person can't afford a filter and replacement cartridges

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 lead in your drinking water, you can wash your hands with water that is not filtered or flushed.</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>	<p>You can use water that has not been filtered or flushed for:</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		

If you are operating a food establishment such as a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment please visit this page www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo for specific information for food firms.

Additional information regarding lead can be found at the City of St. Clair Shores website, <https://www.scsmi.net/892/SCS-Lead-Safe>, or at EGLE websites: Michigan.gov/egleleadpublicadvisory or Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe.

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