FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us at 315-895-7449 or visit our website at www.ilionny.com. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department at New York State Department of Health Herkimer District Office at 315-866-6879, or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll free number (within New York State) 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at 518-402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.state.ny.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Website at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

Please call our office at 315-895-7449 if you have any questions.

2018
Water Quality Update

Drinking Water Quality

49 Morgan Street
Ilion, NY 13357
Public Water Supply ID# NY 2102307
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

The Village of Ilion Public Water Supply has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

This notice is brought to you by Village of Ilion.

State Water System ID#: NY 2102307
Date: November 30, 2018

**Health Effects of Lead**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

**Sources of Lead**

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials.

Lead is found in toys, some playground equipment, some children's metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery. Although most lead exposure occurs when people eat paint chips and in-hale dust, or from contaminated soil, exposure to lead can come from lead in drinking water. Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder. However, new homes are also at risk; even legally "lead-free" plumbing may contain up to 0.25% lead on a weighted average. The most common is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures which can leach significant amounts of lead into the water, especially hot water. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. If you are concerned about lead exposure, parents should alert their health care providers about testing children for high levels of lead in the blood.

**STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN YOUR WATER**

1. Run your water to flush out lead. Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. If it hasn't been used for several hours, it will be cold and safer.

2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

3. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

4. Replace your plumbing fixtures if they are found to contain lead. Plumbing materials including brass faucets, fit-, tings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute to lead in drinking water. The law previously allowed end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead-free." As of January 4, 2013, end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, fittings, and valves, must meet the new "lead-free" definition of having no more than 0.25 percent lead on a weighted average. Visit the National Sanitation Foundation website at: http://www.nsf.org/newsroom/pdf/lead_free_certification_marks.pdf to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures and how to identify lead-free certification marks on new fixtures.

5. Use bottled water or use a water filter. If your home is served by a lead service line, and/or if lead containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the pack-age to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or visit http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/what-is-nsf-certification/faucets-plumbing-certification/lead-older-homes, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.

**Should your child be tested for lead?**

New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to screen each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age as part of routine well-child care. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers assess each child who is at least six months of age, but under six years of age, for high lead exposure. Each child found to be at risk for high lead exposure is screened or referred for lead screening.

If your child has not had routine well-child visits since the age of one year and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact the Herkimer County Public Health Department at 315-866-6879 or your healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

**What Happened? What is Being Done?**

Twenty samples were collected between June 1 and September 30, 2018. More than 30% of these sample results (three samples total) exceeded the lead action level of 15 micrograms per liter (µg/L). The New York State Department of Health will require us to evaluate our existing corrosion control treatment. We will also monitor for lead and copper every six months until we have determined that corrosion control treatment is optimized, and the lead levels within our system are below the action level.

Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion or wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets and in some cases pipes made of lead that connects houses and buildings to water mains.

To find out if you have a lead service line to your home, you can find where the water line enters the building, generally through the basement wall. Lead service lines are generally soft and a dull grey in color. You can identify them by carefully scratching them with a key. If the pipe is made of lead, the area you scratched will turn a bright silver color. Do not use a knife or other sharp instrument and be careful to not puncture a hole in the pipe. NOTE: galvanized pipe can also be dull grey in color. A strong magnet will typically cling to galvanized pipes, but will not cling to lead pipes.
Sources of **LEAD** in Drinking Water

- **Copper Pipe with Lead Solder**: Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.
- **Galvanized Pipe**: Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.
- **Lead Service Line**: The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the home's internal plumbing. Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.
- **Lead Goose Necks**: Goose necks and gooseneck spouts are shorter pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.

Reduce Your Exposure To Lead

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. **Boiling water does not remove lead from water.**
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.
- Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**

Replace Your Lead Service Line

- Water systems are required to replace lead service lines if a water system cannot meet EPA's Lead Action Level through optimized corrosion control treatment.
- Replacement of the lead service line is often the responsibility of both the utility and homeowner.
- Homeowners can contact their water system to learn about how to remove the lead service line.

Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your soil tested for lead. Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.

For more information, visit: [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater)