



**Statement from EPA on Actions to Protect Communities
in Newark, NJ from Lead in Drinking Water
August 13, 2019**

As part of its work with the City of Newark and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to help address lead in drinking water, EPA analyzed samples taken by Newark's contractor in a few locations in Newark to see if the water system's new corrosion control treatment is decreasing the elevated lead levels that present a threat to public health. Through this recent analysis, EPA discovered that the household lead filters provided by the city to residents of the Pequannock service area of Newark may not be performing as expected.

On Friday, August 9, EPA sent [a letter](#) to the NJDEP and the City of Newark asking them to, out of an abundance of caution, provide residents who have lead service lines and are relying on city provided filters, access to bottled water for drinking and cooking until the results of the filter testing are fully understood, additional sampling is performed, and a reliable solution can be implemented.

EPA has received responses from both NJDEP and the City of Newark to its August 9 letter informing us that alternative sources of water are being made available to impacted residents. The state and city are taking steps that they consider prudent to protect the health of Newark residents and have reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the health of all Newark residents. EPA is assessing these responses and is continuing discussions with the state and Newark.

The federal, state and local effort to ensure that the people of Newark are protected from lead in drinking water is active and ongoing. EPA is actively providing technical assistance to the city and state, including its ongoing joint efforts to assess the effectiveness of the city's corrosion control treatment. EPA stands with the people of Newark and will continue to support the community while developing local capacity.

As our discussions with the city and NJDEP continue, EPA is sensitive to the serious challenges Newark faces as it works to tackle this challenging public health issue. EPA has a long history of working shoulder-to-shoulder with city officials to help implement critically important programs that help strengthen the community and protect homes and families. EPA has invested, and will continue to invest, significant time and other resources in Newark.

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