

## Instructions for Public Education under the Lead and Copper Rule – (Lead Only)

Delivery of Public Education Materials for a Community Public Water System (PWS) within 60 days after the end of the monitoring period by [MM, DD, YYYY].

- 1) The PWS must deliver printed public education materials to all persons served by the water system. See the General PE Template in the next section of this document.
- 2) The PWS must deliver public education materials to local public health agencies even if they are not located within the water system's service area. The PWS must contact the local public health agency directly by phone or in person. The local public health agencies may provide a specific list of additional community based organizations serving target populations, which may include organizations outside the service area of the water system. If such lists are provided, the system must deliver public education materials to all organizations on the lists provided.
- 3) The PWS must deliver public education materials to the following organizations if they are located within your service area, and encourage them to pass the information along to persons who attend or visit (especially pregnant women and children):
  - A. Public and private schools or school boards
  - B. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Head Start programs
  - C. Public and private hospitals and medical clinics
  - D. Pediatricians
  - E. Family Planning clinics
  - F. Local Welfare agencies
- 4) A good faith effort must be made to find and contact the following organizations within your service area to deliver public education materials and encourage them to pass the information along to persons who attend or visit (especially pregnant women and children):
  - A. Licensed childcare centers
  - B. Public and private preschools
  - C. Obstetricians/Gynecologists and Midwives
- 5) The PWS must, no less than quarterly, provide the following information (shown in italics) in each water bill beginning immediately. The PWS must continue to include the information in the water/utility bill every billing cycle, but no less than quarterly, while the PWS exceeds the lead action level.

***[Insert name of water system]*** water system found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call ***[Insert contact phone number]*** water system or visit ***[insert your website here]***.
- 6) If the system serves a population greater than 100,000, the public education notice must be posted on the system's website.
- 7) Submit a press release to newspaper, television, and radio stations. This requirement may be waived for systems serving less than 3,300 people as long as the PWS distributes notices to every household served.
- 8) In addition to the above, the PWS must implement at least three activities (one activity is required for systems serving less than 3,300 people) from those listed below to provide public education information on lead.
  - A. Public service announcements
  - B. Paid advertisements

- C. Public area information displays
- D. E-mails to customers
- E. Public meetings
- F. Household deliveries
- G. Targeted individual customer contact
- H. Direct material distribution to all multi-family homes and institutions
- I. Other methods approved by EPA.

**Send in the Certification of Public Education form found at the end of this document to EPA Region 8 within 10 days after completing the Public Education activities described above.**

**Send Certification of PE to:**

Email to: [r8dwu@epa.gov](mailto:r8dwu@epa.gov)

Or by regular mail to:

EPA Region 8, Lead/Copper Rule Manager  
1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129

Or fax to: Attention Lead/Copper Rule Manager, 1-877-876-9101

NOTE: A water system may discontinue delivery of public education materials if the system has met the lead action level during the most recent six-month monitoring period.

(Lead only \*\*\*)

## General Public Education (PE) Notice and Email Announcement Template

The following language meets the revised PE requirements under the 2007 short-term revisions and clarifications to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). **Your notice must include the topic areas in bold below.** *Anything in italics under each topic area is required language and cannot be changed while anything in regular text must be covered, but you have the flexibility to use either the suggested language or your own words to cover these topics.*

Your notice must begin with the following opening statement (though you have the option to include a title of the pamphlet or brochure of your choosing):

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION NOTICE:**

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

***[Insert name of water system]** 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 notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.*

#### **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. Other main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. Lead can also be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows pipes, fittings, and fixtures with up to .25 percent weighted average of lead to be identified as "lead-free."

[Insert utility specific information describing your community's source water – e.g. "The water from XX Reservoir does not contain lead" or "Community X does not have any lead in its source water or lead water mains in the street."] When water is in contact with pipes [or service lines] or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder.

EPA estimates that up to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

### Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Water

- 1. Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing [Run water for 5 minutes if you have a lead service line or any lead pipes in your home plumbing] 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.
- 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. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
- 5. Test your water for lead.** Call us at [insert phone number for your water system] to find out how to get your water tested for lead. [Include information on your water system's testing program. For example, do you provide free testing? Are there labs in your area that are certified to do lead in water testing?]
- 6. Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
- 7. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to 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, 2014, 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 website at <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P100LVYK.txt> learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures and how to identify lead-free certification marks on new fixtures.

### What Happened? What is Being Done?

[Insert information about how and when the exceedance was discovered in your community and provide information on the source(s) of lead in the drinking water, if known.]

[Insert information about what your system is doing to reduce lead levels in homes in your community.]

[Insert information about lead service lines in your community, how a consumer can find out if they have a lead service line, what your water system is doing to replace lead service lines, etc.]

[Insert information about the history of lead levels in tap water samples in your community. For example, have they declined substantially over time? Have they been low and risen recently? Is there a known reason for any lead level changes?]

### For More Information

Call us at [Insert Number] or visit our website at [insert website here]. 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](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or contact your health care provider.

[We recommend you include the name of your system and the date that the information is being distributed, along with the state water system ID, somewhere on the notice.]

## Certification of Public Education for Community Public Water Systems

Please complete this form and return to EPA Region 8, Lead/Copper Rule Manager, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129, email to r8dwu@epa.gov or fax to Attention Lead/Copper Rule Manager, 1-877-876-9101

### **Part 1: Delivery of Public Education to all persons served by the water system(s), including consecutive systems for further distribution.**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the attached public education was issued  
(PWS Operator/Responsible Party)

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Date)

The attached notice was issued by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Method(s) of delivery)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2: Contacting Local Public Health Agencies**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the following public health agencies were notified:  
(PWS Operator/Responsible Party)

Name of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Method of delivery)

Name of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Method of delivery)

Name of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Method of delivery)

Name of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Method of delivery)

Name of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Method of delivery)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





**Part 4: Quarterly PE Distribution Requirements**

The PWS must continue to include the information in italics below in the water/utility bill every billing cycle, but no less than quarterly, while the system exceeds the lead action level.

*[Insert name of water system] found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call [insert name of water system] or visit [insert your website here].*

Note to PWS: Please remember to submit Part 1 of the PE Certification to EPA every quarter that the information above is distributed.

**Part 5: Press Release**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the attached public education was issued  
(PWS Operator/Responsible Party)

As a press release to: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(newspaper, TV, or radio station) (Date)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Press release may be waived if population is less than 3,300*

**Part 6: Delivery of Public Education as a Public Service Announcement**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the following three public service announcements (one for (PWS Operator/Responsible Party)

systems serving less than 3,300 people) were implemented. If any extra announcements were implemented, list them in the extra rows below.

Number	Name of Organization or Facility	Date of Notification	Method of Delivery
1			
2			
3			