

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

**Delivery of Public Education Materials for a Nontransient Non-Community (NTNC) PWS within 60 days after the end of the monitoring period or by [Template choice: month and year].**

- 1) Must post informational posters on lead in drinking water in a public place or common area in each of the buildings served by the water system. See General PE Template on the Next Page of this document.
- 2) Must distribute informational pamphlets and/or brochures on lead in drinking water to each person served by the NTNC water system. EPA may allow electronic transmission in lieu of or combined with printed materials as long as it achieves at least the same coverage.

**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:** EPA Region 8, Lead/Copper Rule Manager, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129, email to [r8dwu@epa.gov](mailto:r8dwu@epa.gov), 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 ListServ/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 in non-italic areas.

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 children 6 years and younger. 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. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place 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 source of water from XX Reservoir does not contain lead" or "Community X does not have any lead in its source water or 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 10 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 Your 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 [www.nsf.org/newsroom/identifying-lead-free-certification-marks-on-plumbing-products-1www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org/newsroom/identifying-lead-free-certification-marks-on-plumbing-products-1www.nsf.org) to 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] (if applicable) 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 Non-transient Non-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](mailto: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)**

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

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

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

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