

# CONSUMER NOTICE OF TAP WATER RESULTS

Dear Consumer,

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Heinz Campus Water System is a public water system (PWS ID 5020031). The following tables provide information on the tap location and water sample result for lead testing conducted in June 2022.

## H.J. Heinz III Campus Lead Water Testing June 2022

Sample Location ID	Room Number	Water Fixture Number	Lead Sample Result (ppb)
786	1A102	0256	0
787	1A104A	0257	0
788	2A102	0264	0
789	2A104A	0265	0
790	BA114	0263	0
791	BA112	0261	0
792	BA113	0262	0
794	1A101	0494	0
795	1A104	0496	0
793	1A101	0492	0.00232

### What Does this Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set an Action Level (AL) for lead in drinking water. An AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value exceeds the AL, Public Water Systems must implement treatment techniques to control corrosiveness of the water. The AL for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb). The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile at VAPHS Heinz campus is zero ppb, less than the AL of 15 ppb.

A Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are non-enforceable public health goals. The MCLG for lead is zero ppb.

### What Are the 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.

### **What are The Sources of Lead?**

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust and lead-contaminated residential soil. 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. Although our facility's drinking water lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposure in your home, you should ask your health care provider about testing your children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

### **What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?**

Although the test results were below EPA's action level, you may still want to take steps to further reduce your exposure.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush out interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.**
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.**

### **For More Information**

Call us at 412-360-3543 for more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

### **Glossary**

**Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the ppb as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb)** - Represents the concentration of a contaminant in water. One ppb represents one microgram of contaminant per liter of water (ug/L).

For more information on water quality testing at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System or the data contained within this report, contact:

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