

Re: Notification of Lead Status Unknown (Unknown) Service Line

Dear Consumer:

The Village of Hicksville is the public water system (PWS) responsible for providing drinking water to this location. This notification is being sent because this home or building has a lead status unknown service line. This means that your service line material is unknown and may be lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or a non-lead material. A service line is a pipe that connects the water main to the building.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires us to notify water consumers who are served by a lead status unknown service line. A lead status unknown service line is where the service line material is not known to be lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or a non-lead service line, and there is no documented evidence supporting the material classification.

What are the Health Effects of Lead?

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead if Found in My Drinking Water?

- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Flush your tap if it has been unused for 6 or more hours.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Regular water usage in your home or building can reduce lead levels in drinking water. When water has not been used for 6 hours or more, homes and buildings served by lead or a galvanized requiring replacement service lines should be flushed until you note a temperature change, then flush for one more minute.
- **Use cold water for cooking, drinking, and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with, drink, or make baby formula from your hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Always use cold water and heat if needed.
- **Use an ANSI certified lead filter.** Filters certified to the ANSI/NSF 53 standard for lead removal can be effective at reducing lead levels in water.
- **Regularly clean your faucet aerators.** Over time, particles containing lead can build up on the inside of aerator screens. Cleaning aerators regularly will help eliminate this source of lead.
- **For pregnant persons, infants, and young children.** Some populations such as pregnant persons, infants, and young children may be more at risk from the harmful effects of lead. These populations may consider taking extra precautions if their home is served by a lead or galvanized requiring replacement service line. These extra precautions may include having their drinking water analyzed for lead, using an alternative source of water (such as bottled water), or utilizing a filter certified to ANSI/NSF 53 standard for lead removal.

- **Replace lead containing plumbing fixtures.** Many old faucets, valves and other plumbing fixtures may contain lead. Identify if your building's plumbing fixtures contain lead, and replace them when appropriate.
- **You may wish to have your child's blood tested for lead.** Contact your child's healthcare provider for information regarding blood lead level testing. For additional information about childhood lead poisoning, please visit the Ohio Department of Health's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program website: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning>, or contact them at 1-877-LEADSAFE (532-3723) or lead.testing@odh.ohio.gov.
- You may wish to test your water for lead. To request this, contact Village water superintendent for more information.

What Can You do About Your Lead Status Unknown Service Line?

Residents of Hicksville (Defiance County) needing financial assistance for water service lines, plumbing, or utility repairs can apply through the **Maumee Valley Planning Organization (MVPO)** administered **Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program**.

- **Target Purpose:** Addresses critical health and safety hazards in single-family, owner-occupied homes.
- **Eligible Fixes:** Plumbing repairs, water and sewer line issues, well/septic fixes, and utility "tap-ins".

Assistance Options

1. **Home Repair Grants:** A one-time grant (averaging around \$8,000) for fixing one or two immediate health and safety threats, such as a broken water/sewer line.
2. **Rehabilitation Loans:** A 0% interest, forgivable loan program for extensive overhauls with no monthly payments, provided you stay in the home for the required duration.

Key Eligibility Requirements

- **Location:** Must own and occupy a primary residence in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, or Williams County.
- **Income:** Household income must generally fall below **80% of the HUD median income limits**.

Contact Details

- **Address:** 1300 E. Second Street, Suite 200, Defiance, OH 43512
- **Phone:** (419) 784-3882
- **Website:** mvpo.org/housing

For More Information, Please Contact: Village of Hicksville Water Department, or visit U.S. EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or visit Ohio EPA's [Learn About Lead | Ohio Environmental Protection Agency](#) website. For information about other lead exposure, please visit the Ohio Department of Health's [Childhood Lead Poisoning](#) website.

Please share this information with all the other people in this home or building, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.