

Lead Action Level Exceedance Notice

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Sampling Shows Elevated Levels of Lead in the Water System

Gig Harbor Academy found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in parts of the building where samples were collected. If they did, you should receive or may have already received these results. These results are specific to your building and may be different from the results carried out in other locations. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

What is an Action Level?

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes or buildings, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10 percent of the samples from these homes or buildings have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education, adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

What Happened?

On **June 17, 2025**, 5 samples were collected and sent to a certified lab to be analyzed for lead. The results of one of the samples exceeded the action level for lead.

Gig Harbor Academy is focused on protecting the health of every water consumer in our community; however, lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. This does not mean that every building that receives drinking water from Gig Harbor Academy has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Health Effects of Lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

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

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet> and EPA's Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead.

- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formulas as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at **(360) 876-0958 or info@nwwatersystems.com** to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in His or Her Blood

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

What is Being Done?

Gig Harbor Academy is working with Northwest Water Systems on next steps to rectify the lead exceedance.

For more information, please contact **Kevin Odegard** at **(360) 876-0958 or info@nwwatersystems.com**. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk from lead in drinking water are available from EPA's website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, 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.*

This notice is being sent to you by the **Gig Harbor Academy** Public Water System **(PWS) ID #649204**. Date distributed: **October 15, 2025**.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER PUBLIC EDUCATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER.

Gig Harbor Academy found elevated levels of lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in drinking water in some homes/buildings on our water system. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

What is Lead?

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain and pewter, and in 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. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

How Lead Gets into Water

Lead in drinking water most often comes from water distribution lines or household plumbing rather than from the water system source. Plumbing sources can include lead pipes, lead solder, faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. Lead from other sources (such as lead-based paint and contaminated dust or soil) can increase a person's overall exposure, which adds to the effects of lead consumed in drinking water.

How you can reduce exposure:

- When your water has been sitting for 6 hours or more, flush water through the pipe by running the cold-water tap until the water is noticeably colder* before using for drinking or cooking. **The longer water has been sitting in the pipes, the more dissolved metals it may contain.**

* You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning.

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead. Boiling water can increase the level of lead in the water.
- Frequently clean the filter screens and aerators in faucets to remove captured particles.
- If building or remodeling, only use "lead free" or low lead piping and materials. Avoid using copper piping or brass fixtures for locations where water will be consumed or used in food preparation (such as kitchen or bathroom sinks).
- Parents can have their child's blood tested for lead. Please contact your healthcare provider to perform this test. Further information on lead levels found in blood can be found at The Department of Health's web page,
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/HealthyHome/Contaminants/Lead/Testing>.

What are we doing about it?

The water system is working with Northwest Water System's to get the treatment installed. The water system also has potable water delivered for all water consumers.

To do this, we are required to:

- 1) Conduct a public education program.

We have been required to:

- 2) Install corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water) or
- 3) Treat our source water (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility).

For more information, call us at (360) 876-0958, or visit our Web site at [Home | Northwest Water Systems, Inc | United States \(nwwatersystems.com\)](#). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

You may also access Washington State Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water website at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/laboratorysearch/Default.aspx>.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Some State-approved drinking water laboratories in your area that you can call to have your water tested are:

Spectra Laboratories

Water Management Laboratories

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Gig Harbor Academy Water System Did Not Meet Lead & Copper Rule Drinking Water Requirements

Our water system violated public drinking water system requirements over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did (are doing) to correct these situations.

*Our system conducted testing for lead and copper in the drinking water, and the testing shows that our Lead levels in the water are above the EPA limit or "action level." We were required to re-install corrosion control treatment **ASAP**, as required.*

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

For systems without LSLs: information provided indicated non-lead service lines.

- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead from the pipes.
- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap, lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil your water to remove lead.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead more concentrated – the lead remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason. However, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What is being done?

The Gig Harbor Academy water system is working with Northwest Water Systems and The Department of Health to get corrosion control treatment re-installed at the source. The water system provides bottled water for all water consumers and is looking to connect to another water system.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, 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.

This notice is being sent to you by Gig Harbor Academy Public Water System **ID #649204**. Date distributed: **10/30/2025**.