



## Regulatory Water Sampling Data

Water samples confirm that overall water quality in University Park **met state and federal drinking water benchmarks** for a full year. As a result, the community's water quality has met what is known as the compliance action level for two consecutive monitoring periods, from July through December 2021 and January through June 2022.

State and federal drinking water regulations require that 90 percent of water samples test at or below 15 micrograms per liter (ug/L) over a six-month period. July marks the beginning of a new six-month monitoring period that ends in December 2022.

*To view a table listing data from compliance samples collected to date during the ongoing monitoring period, please see Appendix A at the end of this document.*

We have been working with regulators to confirm the treatment is as effective as possible for the water system, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has approved the treatment as optimized. The community's support has helped make this progress possible, and we extend our deepest gratitude for all your assistance in achieving this breakthrough.

Our commitment to our customers remains unwavering and we will continue our close collaboration with the community, national experts and regulators as we safeguard the water quality.

If you have any concern about lead plumbing in your home, please call **877.987.2782** to request free water sampling or to speak with a member of our team.

See below for more information about compliance sampling.



## More Information About Compliance Sampling

### The Lead and Copper Rule and Compliance Sampling Requirements

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through its Lead and Copper Rule, requires water utilities to work with their customers to collect regularly scheduled stagnation samples, or compliance samples. These samples must be taken after water has remained in customers' pipes unused for six or more hours, therein providing high-case scenario data for lead exposure.

Under the rule, utilities must choose sample locations that represent properties with the highest inventory of lead. For example, so-called "Tier 1" locations include those with lead service lines (there are no lead service lines in University Park) or lead solder on copper pipes within homes constructed after 1982.

### Compliance Sampling in University Park

IEPA regulations require that we work with at least 40 homes and businesses in the University Park service area to conduct compliance sampling. Sample locations must be submitted to the IEPA for approval before compliance sampling can begin.

To complete compliance sampling, participating customers help us collect samples after their water has been unused for six or more hours. We then send the samples to an independent lab for testing.

### What We Believe Happened and How We Are Treating the Water

On June 14, 2019, we immediately issued an advisory requesting that customers temporarily not consume unfiltered water in the service area **to be as protective as possible** after receiving compliance samples that showed elevated lead levels in 14 homes on June 13, 2019. Right away, we began investigating and gathering information to restore the water quality for our customers.

It is important to note that no state or federal regulation required us to take this unprecedented advisory action. We voluntarily took this precautionary step to protect the public until we learned more about the extent, cause and level of the issue AND until we could formalize our voluntary system to provide alternative sources of water. Our sweeping actions have gone beyond those of any supplier in the nation and were neither required by law nor ordered by any State or federal government agency. We took these steps because we care about the community.

Throughout our response, we have offered resources and guidance for customers on how to consume their tap water and educational resources and tips for home water use.

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Our information shows that there was never lead in the source water or our University Park infrastructure. To date, we have identified that the likely cause of elevated lead levels in a limited number of homes was due to water chemistry interacting with lead solder and other lead sources in the internal plumbing of homes built prior to 1990. Homes built after 1990 are not expected to have lead solder because the use of lead solder was banned by law in the mid-1980s.

Within 30 days of discovering the exceedance, in coordination with the IEPA, we removed several areas and hundreds of homes from the advisory based on property age and water sample results.

In June 2019, we began working with national water chemistry experts and regulators to investigate and implement a new treatment plan that would work to prevent lead inside customers' plumbing from interacting with fresh water flowing into their homes. It is important to note that these treatments are not harmful to humans or pets.

Our customers' health and safety remain at the heart of everything we do and will continue doing all we can to be a good community partner while we build on progress toward the long-term resolution.



## A Message from the IEPA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates there is no safe blood lead level in children. Lead exposures come from a combination of environmental sources, which may include lead in water. U.S. EPA estimates that water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead, and infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40-60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. The source of lead in water is most often from a building's plumbing system.

The IEPA and Illinois Department of Public Health support point-of-use (POU) filters as a short-term strategy for reducing lead in drinking water. *(Please note: Aqua Illinois is providing free faucet filters and pitcher filters to customers in University Park).* A POU system filters water at the point where water is being used and is installed at the water connection, typically under the sink in the kitchen or bathroom. Water pitchers with POU filters may also be used. POU filters are commercially available and can be effective at removing most lead. There are several POU cartridge filter units on the market. They can vary in price and effectiveness. Filters should routinely be replaced or maintained in accordance with manufacturers guidelines and recommendations to remain effective.

To select a lead-reducing POU filter, check with the manufacturer or a third-party website (such as [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)) to verify the product was tested and certified for lead removal (NSF/ANSI Standard 53). For additional protection for particulate lead, look for a POU filter that is also certified against NSF/ANSI Standard 42 (for class I particulate reduction, 0.5 micrometers to less than 1 micrometers). To be effective, the POU filters should be installed at locations used for drinking water or for food preparation according to the manufacturer's instructions. This includes kitchen water faucets and refrigerators with water dispensers and ice makers or in water pitchers.

POU filters should be considered an interim measure until [effective treatment is restored, or] the sources of lead have been removed and replaced with lead free plumbing materials. After replacement of lead plumbing materials or disturbance of a plumbing system, the plumbing system should be flushed for 30 minutes with aerators and screens removed from all faucets. Because you cannot see, smell, or taste lead in water, testing the water is the only way to determine if lead is present in drinking water.

To access additional information about lead in drinking water and a consumer tool for identifying POU filters certified to reduce lead, please visit U.S. EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> and <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-pou-drinking-water-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. To access more information about other sources of lead, please visit IDPH's website at: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/illinoislead>.

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Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.



**Appendix A:**  
**Compliance sample results, in ug/L, July 2022 (for ongoing six-month monitoring period)**

Samples	Home ID	ug/L
1	1	<1.0
2	4	<1.0
3	9	<1.0
4	42	<1.0
5	47	<1.0
6	58	<1.0
7	74	<1.0
8	79	<1.0
9	82	1.3