



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR DRINKING WATER Lead and Copper Water Quality Parameter Monitoring Results Not Meeting Minimum Values Treatment Technique Violation

Our water system violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

In December 2017, the Mississippi State Department of Health issued its Optimized Corrosion Control Plan for the City of Jackson drinking water system. The Plan requires that the City maintain an alkalinity of greater than or equal to 25 mg/L for drinking water as it enters the water distribution system from both of its water treatment plants. Alkalinity is used as indicator for maintaining proper pH. The purpose of the Plan and the minimum alkalinity requirements are to help prevent lead and copper that may be in City pipes and residential plumbing components from dissolving into the drinking water. For the month of January 2019, which is a part of the January – June 2019 monitoring period, the City also failed to maintain alkalinity levels on water entering the distribution system. Because of these failures in the corrosion control system, we have received a Treatment Technique Violation. Additionally, for the January-June 2018 and June-December 2018 monitoring periods, the City received violations for failing to maintain the required minimum pH values. The City is required to repeat this Public Notification until the end of the monitoring period in which the City is able to maintain these minimum pH and alkalinity values at the water plant and in the water distribution system.

What should I do?

Although more than ninety percent of home lead testing performed during the most recent testing period identified no lead or lead below the action level set by the EPA, the Mississippi Department of Health has issued these recommendations as a special precaution, especially for households with young children or pregnant women. These precautions should remain in place at least six months while the City continues its efforts to make required changes to stabilize the pH levels in its water system.

- **Before using tap water for drinking or cooking, run your tap on cold for one to two minutes.**
- **Households should never use hot water for drinking or cooking.**
- **Residents should clean out their faucet aerators by unscrewing the aerator at the tip of the faucet and removing any particles or sediment that have collected in the filter screen.**
- **Any child five years of age or younger and any pregnant woman should use filtered water <http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/> or bottled water for drinking and cooking.**
- **Baby formula should be “ready to feed” or prepared using only filtered water or bottle water.**
- **Parents with children five years or younger should contact their child’s pediatrician or primary care provider to make sure that adequate lead screening and blood testing have been performed.**

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Typically, lead and copper enter the water supply 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, fixtures, and plumbing materials in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder. High levels of lead and copper in Mississippi are nearly always due to pipes and fittings in the plumbing.

“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 system is currently under a Compliance Plan that required a Corrosion Control Study, which was submitted on June 7, 2017. The study established new criteria for optimizing corrosion control. Following approval of the Study by the Mississippi State Department of Health, the City has until December 29, 2019 to complete the improvements necessary to address the issue and optimize corrosion control. Currently, the City of Jackson is doing the following:

- We evaluated and made corrective actions to our existing corrosion control systems to stabilize the pH in the distribution system.
- We contracted a consulting engineer who performed a Corrosion Control Study for the water treatment plants. The data from the study was compiled in a report and submitted to MSDH with the recommended optimized corrosion control.
- The corrosion control treatment recommended by the study is being optimized and full implementation is ongoing. During the optimization and implementation, a different treatment method is being used that does not raise alkalinity, resulting in levels lower than required by optimized corrosion control treatment. Once implementation of optimized corrosion control treatment is complete, alkalinity should be maintained at the proper level. Alkalinity does not affect corrosivity of the water but assists in maintaining the required pH throughout the distribution system.

For more information, please contact Lenore Hicks at the City of Jackson Water Laboratory at 601.960.2723.

Please share this information with all 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.