

## Tier 1 (24-Hour) Public Notification Instructions for Lead Action Level Exceedance

Beginning October 16, 2024, an exceedance of the action level for lead requires Tier 1 (24-hour) public notification. This applies to any Community Water System or Non-Transient Non-Community Water System.

A lead **action level exceedance (ALE)** occurs when the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile concentration of lead is greater than 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 mg/L.

You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but no more than 24 hours after learning of the lead ALE. **During this time, you must also provide a copy of the notice to GA EPD and US EPA.** You must provide notice that can reach all persons served using one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers:

- Broadcast Media, such as radio and television
- Hand delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations throughout your water service area
- Another method approved by GA EPD (such as Email)

You may need to use multiple methods of delivery (e.g., broadcast media along with providing multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings, etc.).

For water systems serving a large proportion of non-English speaking consumers, this notice must have information in the appropriate language(s) or information on how to receive a translated copy of the notice or contact information on how to request assistance in the appropriate language.

For new consumers, water systems must provide this notice prior to, or at the time-of-service initiation, for as long as the exceedance continues.

In addition to public notice, you must initiate consultation with GA EPD as soon as practical but within 24 hours after learning of the ALE. You must also follow any additional public notification requirements (including any repeat notices or direction on the duration of the posted notices) set by GA EPD. You must issue the notice within 24 hours, even if you are unable to contact anyone at GA EPD.

The template provided includes mandatory text from the regulation, example language that you may use and/or modify, and blanks where specific information may be entered. The template is intended for E-mail, hand delivery, or posting in a public place. **If you modify the notice, you must still include all required public notice elements and leave all *mandatory language (as noted in italics with an asterisk\* on each end) unchanged.*** The table on the following page outlines all elements required by The Federal Public Notice Rule. For more information on how to meet general public notification requirements, see EPA's Revised [PN Handbook](#).

## Public Notice Content Requirements

### Describe the Situation and When It Happened

You must include language describing the situation and describe when the situation occurred.

### Health Effects and Populations at Risk

You must include ***mandatory language*** on health effects, including a description of populations at risk, (from [Appendix B to 40 CFR 141 Subpart Q](#)) as it appears on the attached template and is presented in *italics* with an asterisk\* on each end. You must not edit any mandatory text on the template in *italics* with an asterisk\* on each end.

### Alternative Sources of Water

The template must include whether alternative water supplies should be used. You may want to consider providing bottled water and/or point-of-use or pitcher filters to your customers. If you are providing bottled water and/or filters, your notice should say how and where to obtain them. If you are providing filters, EPA recommends that you ensure they are third-party certified to remove lead by referring to EPA's [Consumer Tool for Identifying POU Filters Certified to Remove Lead](#) and reading the filter packaging.

### Actions Consumers Should Take

The Public Notice must include what actions consumers should take, including whether they should seek medical help, if known. The template includes recommended actions that a person may take, separately or in combination, if they are concerned about lead in their drinking water. Please note, all language in this section of the template is recommended as example text and may be edited.

### Water System Actions and Resolution

In your notice, you must describe actions you are taking in response to the action level exceedance and when you expect to resolve the situation. Some of these actions may be required by regulation.

### Contact Information

You must include the name, business address, and phone number of the water system owner, operator, or designee of the public water system as a source of additional information concerning the notice.

### Encourage Distribution of the Notice

The template includes mandatory text to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable. ***Mandatory text*** is presented in the template in *italics* with an asterisk\* on each end. You must not edit any language on the template in *italics* with an asterisk\* on each end.

### After Issuing the Notice:

**You must provide a copy of the Tier 1 notice to both the GA EPD and US EPA as soon as practicable but no later than 24 hours after the public water system learns of the exceedance. Copies should be provided via email to [epd.LCN@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:epd.LCN@dnr.ga.gov) and [LeadALE@epa.gov](mailto:LeadALE@epa.gov).** Additionally, you must provide certification to GA EPD stating that you have met all the public notification requirements within 10 days after the distribution of the original or any repeat notice(s).

EPA recommends that you notify local health professionals of the action level exceedance. People may contact their doctors with questions about how lead exposure may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately. In addition, health professionals, including dentists, use tap water during their procedures and need to know about the elevated levels of lead found in their system's drinking water so they can potentially use an alternate source of water, such as bottled water, or a filter certified to remove lead.

EPA recommends the best practice of informing your consumers when the situation has been resolved.