

City of Newton



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Utilities Division

1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449  
Theodore J. Jerdee, Utilities Director

July 18, 2016

Newton Property Homeowner  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Lead Water Service Replacement Program

Dear Newton Property Homeowner,

The City of Newton has had a Lead Service Replacement Program (LSRP) for a number of years. With the heightened concern regarding lead exposure, the City is expanding its outreach efforts to homeowners who may have lead water service lines. Lead is of greatest risk to young children and pregnant women, and can slow down normal mental and physical development. While most lead exposure comes from lead paint and lead dust in soil, we are concerned about any lead that can leach into your water.

While the water in MWRA's reservoirs and in the City's water mains contains no lead, the plumbing materials in your water service line may contain lead, which can leach out into your water. The water service line is the pipe that connects from your house to the public water main in the street. As part of the City's LSRP, your service line has been identified as possibly containing lead based on the City's records indicating the age of your water service line. To reduce the exposure of City's residents to lead the City hired Tata & Howard Engineers to develop plans and specifications so that the City can hire a contractor to remove and replace all water service lines that contain lead. If your service line needs to be replaced, the City will provide details of a program to minimize the costs to you.

In order to develop these plans and specifications, it will be necessary for the City of Newton Utilities Division to locate and mark out your water service line from the street to your house. This will be done by temporarily painting the pavement and the sidewalk with blue paint and placing small blue flags on your property. Once this is complete, Tata & Howard Engineers will photograph the markings and remove the blue flags from your property.

**In order for your property to be included in this program, you will need to sign a Right of Entry form (enclosed) to allow Tata & Howard Engineers to enter your property and mark the location of your water service line. The Right of Entry form needs to be completed and**

**returned to the City by August 1, 2016 in order to include your property in this program. You can sign and send the Right of Entry form to Utilities-LSRP, 60 Elliot Street Newton, MA 02461, email the form to [LSRP@newtonma.gov](mailto:LSRP@newtonma.gov) or complete electronically online at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/dpw/water>. The flagging work will be completed during the month of August.**

Lead pipe, copper pipe joined with lead solder, and certain types of brass can leach lead into your drinking water when the water sits stagnant. Replacement of your water service line will reduce the chance that water which sits stagnant in the service line will leach enough lead to be of a health concern. Of course, if your home has any other lead containing plumbing, there could still be opportunities for lead to leach into the water. This can include certain brass faucets and the solder joining copper pipe if it was installed prior to the lead solder ban in 1986. The simple way to ensure that your water has no lead is to let it run until it is fresh (cold) or a minimum of 30 seconds.

Please contact the Utilities Division at 617-796-1640 if you have any questions or visit the city of Newton website at [www.newtonma.gov/drinkingwater](http://www.newtonma.gov/drinkingwater) for more information.

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Jerdee  
Utilities Director