



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

better health. stronger communities.

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Gillian Conrad

(269) 927-56 24

gconrad@bchdmi.org

Benton Harbor City Water Customers Offered Water Filters to Reduce Risk of Lead Exposure

(Benton Harbor, MI) - The Berrien County Health Department will offer water filters certified to reduce the risk of lead exposure in drinking water to all City of Benton Harbor water customers who would like one. The filters will be provided at a variety of locations throughout the City of Benton Harbor at no cost to the water customers.

The upcoming water filter distribution locations City of Benton Harbor water customers are encouraged to attend include:

- **Thursday, February 7th, 2019 from 1:00PM to 7:00PM**
Harbor of Hope Church - 769 Pipestone, Benton Harbor
- **Friday, February 8th, 2019 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
Benton Harbor Charter Academy - 455 Riverview Dr, Benton Harbor
- **Saturday, February 9th, 2019 from 11:00AM to 2:00PM**
Benton Harbor High School - 870 Colfax Ave, Benton Harbor
- **Monday, February 11th, 2019 from 3:00PM to 7:00PM**
Harbor of Hope Church - 769 Pipestone, Benton Harbor
- **Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
MI Department of Health and Human Services - 401 8th Street, Benton Harbor
- **Thursday, February 14th, 2019 from 1:30PM to 4:30PM**
First Presbyterian Church - 475 Green Ave, Benton Harbor
- **Friday, February 15th, 2019 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
Benton Harbor Charter Academy - 455 Riverview Dr, Benton Harbor

Out of an abundance of caution, the Berrien County Health Department recommends that all City of Benton Harbor water customers continue to take precautions to reduce their risk of lead from drinking water by flushing their water for at least five minutes or by using a certified NSF Standard 53 drinking water filter.

The Berrien County Health Department continues to offer blood testing and monitor the blood lead levels of children under age six and throughout the county, as children under the age of 6 are at the greatest risk of lead exposure. Benton Harbor residents can have their children tested for lead in their blood at InterCare Community Health Network (800 M-139, Benton Harbor), at Spectrum Health Lakeland Center for Outpatient Services (3900 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph), or at the Berrien County Health Department (2149 E. Napier Ave, Benton Harbor). There have been no detected increases in

elevated blood lead levels in Benton Harbor children and data evaluation will continue. Trends show elevated blood lead levels have been decreasing since 2011.

More information about lead in drinking water can be found at www.bchdmi.org or at the Berrien County Health Department Facebook page. Questions can also be directed to the Public Health Hotline at 1-800-815-5485.

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