

# BENTON HARBOR RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

*As of November 17, 2021*

The state has taken significant action every step of the way since elevated lead levels were first detected to help protect and aid Benton Harbor residents. Enforcing Michigan’s toughest-in-the-nation rules on lead, the state efforts have included repeated educational outreach to residents, water treatments, regular water sampling, filter distribution, mobile blood lead testing events, nursing case management of children who have elevated blood lead levels, health care provider outreach, free lead environmental investigations and lead abatement, and community training. The governor ordered an all-hands-on-deck, whole-of-government response to Benton Harbor. She secured over \$18 million in funding has already started moving dirt to replace every lead service line the city within 18 months.

Governor Whitmer has been laser focused on investing in our state's aging and outmoded water infrastructure. Already she has invested more in Michigan’s water infrastructure than the previous five years—from 2014 to 2018—combined. Governor Whitmer has announced a \$700 million MI Clean Water Plan – a comprehensive and aggressive effort to fund once-in-a-generation investments in the state’s water infrastructure that includes over \$200 million directed to drinking water improvements.

<b>Oct-18</b>		
EGLE	A Lead Action Level Exceedance (ALE) was officially declared on October 22, 2018. The city made public comments to providing alternative water source (i.e., filters or bottled water).	<a href="#">Southwestern Michigan city’s water under advisory for lead</a>  <a href="#">Testing for lead Local residents pick up kits so water can be checked for contaminants</a>
	The 2018 compliance sampling was conducted during a period of implementation of revisions to EGLE's administrative rules to the SDWA. The Benton Harbor water system operator in charge (OIC) informed EGLE that the 2018 sample locations were different from previous rounds of sampling in that all samples were taken from sites with known or suspected lead service lines (LSL).	-
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<b>Nov-18</b>		

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EGLE	The city enlisted Elhorn Engineering's technical assistance in selecting a treatment chemical and dose for addressing lead corrosion. DWEH discussed the selection of the initial corrosion treatment chemical with the OIC and Elhorn.	
EGLE	EGLE staff provided onsite technical assistance to implement a new requirement to collect Water Quality Parameter samples from sites in distribution. Staff visited sampling locations and collected samples with the OIC, using a state-owned pH/temperature probe. EGLE staff hand delivered the samples to the state lab in Lansing. This effort was necessary due to a lack of city capacity.	
<b>Jan-19</b>		
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Door to door delivery of drinking water filters to 54 homes
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided factsheet on cleaning your aerator
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided factsheet on PUR water filters
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided Lead in City of BH Drinking Water Fact Sheet
EGLE		<a href="#">Benton Harbor residents to get free water filters</a>  <a href="#">BCHD: Benton Harbor residents encouraged to take steps to prevent lead exposure</a>  <a href="#">LEAD FOUND IN BENTON HARBOR TAP WATER</a>
EGLE/MDHHS	Berrien County Health Department, MDHHS, EGLE in-person townhall meeting on 1/24/2019 at the City Hall.	<a href="#">Benton Harbor's lead problem is nothing like Flint's. That's the scary part.</a>
<b>Feb-19</b>		

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MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Distributed drinking water filters at Harbor of Hope Church Public
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Distributed drinking water filters
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Distributed drinking water filters at Benton Harbor High School Public
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Distributed drinking water filters at Harbor of Hope Church Public
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Distributed drinking water filters at First Presbyterian
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Distributed drinking water filters at Benton Harbor Charter Academy Public
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
	Free water filters were offered to any resident of Benton Harbor (starting January 2019) through the BCHD, paid for by DHHS.	<a href="#">Benton Harbor City Water Customers Offered Water Filters to Reduce Risk of Lead Exposure</a>
<b>Mar-19</b>		
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Lead Safe Home	Completed lead investigation and abatement.
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
EGLE	The corrosion treatment installation was completed, and treatment began on 3/25/2019. This also included installation of a finished water meter, resolving a requirement of the ACO.	
EGLE	Although not required by rule, DWEH determined the system would continue to sample every six months following the ALE to better understand the scope of the problem and to protect public health by identifying more homes with high lead.	

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*As of November 17, 2021*

<b>Apr-19</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Lead Safe Home	Completed lead investigation and abatement.
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
<b>May-19</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
<b>Jun-19</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
<b>Jul-19</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided PUR filter fact sheet
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided PUR Faucet Filter Installation Video
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided Brita Filter Fact Sheet
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided Brita faucet filter installation video
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided cleaning your aerator fact sheet
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided Know the Facts about Lead Fact Sheet
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provided Well Fed means Less Lead Brochure

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<b>Aug-19</b>		
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
<b>Sep-19</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
<b>Oct-19</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	153 Faucet filters and filter pitchers were delivered to BCHD
<b>Nov-19</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
<b>Dec-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
MDHHS	Lead Education	Lead Safe Home Daycare Program Letter and Flyer mailed to 21 facilities
EGLE	Facilitated discussions with Blue Conduit and the City to generate a randomized list of addresses for physical verification of materials by potholing.	

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*As of November 17, 2021*

<b>Jan-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provided finances to purchase 1500 drinking water filters
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provided finances to purchase and disseminate 3000 water filters at Reverend Pickney Church
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Lead Safe In-Home Childcare Program	Childcare letters mailed
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
EGLE	In 2020, EGLE staff informed the city of an EPA grant opportunity for the study and replace lead service lines. The department worked with the city engineer and provided assistance and reminders to the city to ensure the grant application was submitted. EGLE contacted EPA and advocated for Benton Harbor to get the grant, which they successfully received in the amount of \$5.6M.	
EGLE	Throughout 2020 the city OIC had difficulty meeting the new target residual. During no months of 2020 did the orthophosphate residuals all meet the 3.0 mg/L target (5 sites, sampled weekly). EGLE repeatedly reminded the OIC about the importance of reaching the target dosage, and the OIC was unable to meet the treatment goal.	
<b>Feb-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
EGLE	EGLE determined the initial corrosion treatment was not optimized. The department consulted with the city, EPA, and Cornwell Engineering and directed the city to change the phosphate chemical feed.	<a href="#">Benton Harbor residents again warned about possible lead in water</a>

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EGLE	Due to the ongoing ALE and lack of TMF, EGLE determined additional public outreach was necessary. In February 2020, EGLE staff, including the Clean Water Public Advocate and Environmental Justice Public Advocate, began working with local advocates and community members to create a Task Force to develop educational materials to inform residents how to reduce their lead exposure risk.	<a href="#">EGLE Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate launches Benton Harbor Water Outreach Task Force</a>
EGLE	The city OIC began treatment with the new chemical as directed by EGLE.	-
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<b>Mar-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations twice a month
EGLE	EGLE staff, including the Clean Water Public Advocate and Environmental Justice Public Advocate, announce working with local advocates and community members to create a Task Force to develop educational materials to inform residents how to reduce their lead exposure risk.	<a href="#">EGLE Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate launches Benton Harbor Water Outreach Task Force</a>
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<b>Apr-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
<b>May-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
<b>Jun-20</b>		

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MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
EGLE		
EGLE	EGLE helped organize and presented at another townhall meeting in the summer of 2020, held virtually due to COVID-19, to help with public information regarding the continued ALE.	
<b>Jul-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
EGLE	EGLE made a presentation on the amended Administrative Consent Order (ACO) to personnel and finance committee and attended the full commission meeting on 7/20/2020 to educate and update the city commission members on the water system.	
<b>Aug-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Lead Safe Home	Completed lead investigation and abatement.
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a drive-thru and outside filter and cartridge drive through event at God's Household of Faith
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a drive-thru and outside filter and cartridge drive through event at Harbor Towers
EGLE	The amended ACO, effective 8/7/2020, expanded the compliance timeline and identified the need for a Technical, Managerial, and Financial capacity study and implementation plan.	



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*As of November 17, 2021*

<b>Sep-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a drive-thru and outside filter and cartridge drive through event at Harbor of Hope Church
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a drive-thru and outside filter and cartridge drive through event at God's Household of Faith
EGLE	EGLE staff conducted a compliance assistance visit to the water treatment plant, the first in many months due to COVID-19 restrictions.	
<b>Oct-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a drive-thru and outside filter and cartridge drive through event at Harbor of Hope Church
MDHHS	Lead Safe Home	Completed lead investigation and abatement.
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a drive-thru and outside filter and cartridge drive through event at God's Household of Faith
<b>Nov-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a drive-thru and outside filter and cartridge drive through event at Harbor of Hope Church
MDHHS	Lead Safe Home	Completed lead investigation and abatement.

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MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Delivered 1500 faucet mouth water filters to BCHD
EGLE	EGLE pursued the decertification of the operator in charge (OIC) due to a number of concerns. Actions or inactions by the OIC had been shown to jeopardize public health. Due to EGLE's action, the OIC was suspended by the city the beginning of November 2020.	DWEH worked closely with the city to arrange operator coverage with adequate licensing through a contracting firm, Fleis & Vandenbrink Operations (FVOps).
<b>Dec-20</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Lead Safe Home	Completed lead investigation and abatement
EGLE	EGLE began weekly update meetings with the city and water system personnel; continuing to present.	
<b>Jan-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Lead Education	Sent ALE/Lead Mailing to Benton Harbor Schools
MDHHS	Lead Education	Sent ALE/Lead Mailing to Boys and Girls Club
<b>Feb-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
EGLE	Notified city of violation to adequately distribution public education documentation for previous Action Level Exceedance.	
<b>Mar-21</b>		

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MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
MDHHS	Community Engagement	Participated in Benton Harbor Community Forum
EGLE	The suspended OIC dismissed his contested case regarding his revoked certificate. His employment at the city was terminated around this same time.	
<b>Apr-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
<b>May-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at two locations
<b>Jun-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at three locations
<b>Jul-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at three locations
<b>Aug-21</b>		

## BENTON HARBOR RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

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MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at three locations
MDHHS	Lead Education	Sent ALE/Lead Animations to BCHD Health Officer
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Held a lead filter and replacement cartridge event at National Night Out at Dwight P Mitchell Park
MDHHS	Community Engagement	Held Blood Mobile Clinic
<b>Sep-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at three locations
MDHHS	Water Testing Program	Home Water Sampling
MDHHS	Lead Education	Emailed BCHD health office a draft of Benton Harbor door hanger for review
MDHHS	Lead Education	Emailed BCHD health officer media creatives from Brogan for review
EGLE	Offered onsite technical assistance to help finalizing the work to rehabilitate the water tower	
EGLE	Attended a small stakeholder open house to offer technical assistance for the EJ Public Advocate	
<b>Oct-21</b>		
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provide drinking water filters and/or replacement cartridges as needed at three locations
MDHHS	Lead Education	Emailed BCHD Health officer for ALE Fact Sheet Review
MDHHS	Certified-Lead Reducing Filter	Provided 3,000 faucet mouth and pitcher filters to BCHD
MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Distribute bottled water at 331 Miller St 4-6PM
MDHHS	Lead Education	Water Use in Benton Harbor Flyer

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MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Distributed bottled water at 275 Pipestone St
MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Distribute bottled water at 401 8 <sup>th</sup> St
MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Distribute bottled water at 693 Columbus Ave
MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Distribute bottled water at 331 Miller St
MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Distribute bottled water at 331 Miller St
MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Distribute bottled water at 275 Pipestone Rd
MDHHS	Blood lead testing event	Blood lead testing event at River Terrace, 10/15, 230-6 pm
MDHHS	Blood lead testing event	Blood lead testing event at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 10/16, 10am-2 pm
MDHHS	Blood lead testing event	Blood lead testing event at River Terrace, 10/15
MDHHS	Water testing	Participate with EPA planning for sequential water and filter testing
MDHHS	Bottled water distribution	Participate with EPA planning for sequential water and filter testing
MDHHS	Bottled water distribution	Home delivery of bottled water distribution
MDHHS	Lead abatement	Received approval to allocate existing CMS federal funds toward removal of lead from Benton Harbor homes
MDHHS	Community ambassador program	Developed and launched program to pay volunteers at bottle distribution sites
MDHHS	Home delivery	Arranged for regular bottle delivery to homebound, high rises and schools
MDHHS	Ongoing material development and translation	Do's and Don'ts mailer, ads, social media, webpage, FAQs, Resource Guide, Resource Fair materials
MDHHS	Ready to eat formula	Received approval from USDA to provide ready to eat formula for infants served by WIC in City of Benton Harbor
EGLE	Offered onsite technical assistance during water system emergency depressurization	
EGLE	Participated in Joint Compliance Inspection with USEPA at water treatment plant	

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EGLE	Helped coordinate laboratory space at water treatment plant for EPA ORD/Region 5 staff to conduct filter study and particulate analysis	
Nov-21		
	Pipe replacement underway. 18-month replacement goal.	
EGLE	Completed a sanitary survey of the water system resulting in many findings of deficiency and significant deficiency	
EGLE	Participated onsite in the Water Resource Fair	
MDHHS	Lead Education	Provide team and materials for Resource Fair
MDHHS	Blood lead testing event	Blood lead testing event at Second Baptist Church
MDHHS	Blood lead testing event	Blood lead testing event at Discovery Enrichment Center
MDHHS	Water testing	Assisting with EPA water testing
MDHHS	Home Lead Services	Four homes in Benton Harbor receiving lead abatement services
MDHHS	Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)	Pilot program that will help pay the water and wastewater bills of eligible City of Benton Harbor residents who are past due on their bills or in disconnect status
MDHHS	Ready to Eat Formula	Continued provision of ready to eat formula for infants served by WIC in Benton Harbor
MDHHS	Bottled Water Distribution	Home delivery of bottled water distribution
MDHHS/EGLE	Resource Fair held	Multi-agency event to highlight resources available to residents, bottle distribution
MDHHS	Mental Health Resource Guide	Created one pager of local mental health resources