

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Water System Name: Village of Grand Ridge

Public Water System ID: IL0990200

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN THE
VILLAGE OF GRAND RIDGE DRINKING WATER**

Recent drinking water quality monitoring conducted by the Village of Grand Ridge has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes and buildings in the Village. Although the primary sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water.

The Village of Grand Ridge is concerned about the health of its residents because exposure to lead in drinking water or other sources can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, a child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

The exceedances occurred between January and June of 2026. The Village was notified of these exceedances in July 2026. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in the drinking water, some homes in the community have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under Federal law, the Village is required to have a program in place to minimize lead in drinking water if, after further investigation, the water system indicates lead levels above 15 ppb. The Village and the IEPA will be conducting further investigation by sampling for lead and copper throughout the distribution system. If this further investigation indicate a lead exceedance, a corrosion control treatment will be installed to ensure safe drinking water; this means water will be treated to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water.

Steps can be taken to reduce exposure to lead in water:

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water from the cold water tap for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold and reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it has not been used for several hours.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.**
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative drinking water sources or water treatment.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter.

- **Test your water for lead.** Call the Village at 815-249-6462 to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- **Get your child's blood tested.** If you are concerned about exposure, contact the local health department or healthcare a provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.
- **Identity and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.**

Residents can contact the Village at 815-249-6462 or via email at clerk@villageofgrandridge.org to find out how to get water tested for lead or for more information on steps be taken by the Village. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home or other building and the health effects of lead, interested persons can visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead or contact their health care provider.