

..Number

170131

..Version

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE A

..Reference

..Sponsor

ALD. ZIELINSKI

..Title

Substitute resolution relating to Health Department recommendations for avoiding lead exposure.

..Analysis

This resolution directs the Health Department to immediately recommend that, for families living in buildings with lead service lines, women of childbearing age (15-45) and children under the age of six, particularly infants and children under the age of one, should not drink unfiltered tap water and should be tested for lead. The Health Department shall issue a media advisory with this recommendation and shall update all of the department's lead awareness, pregnancy and prenatal care initiatives, websites, social media messaging, printed materials, outdoor and media advertisements and campaigns with this recommendation. The Health Department shall also communicate this recommendation to Milwaukee-area obstetricians, pediatricians and public and private healthcare facilities and partner agencies.

..Body

Whereas, Lead exposure poses a significant threat to public health and safety, with infants, young children, and pregnant women being at the greatest risk of adverse health impacts from lead exposure; and

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control, there is no known identified safe blood lead level, and childhood lead exposure can cause damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems and hearing and speech problems; and

Whereas, While Milwaukee Water Works sources, treats and delivers drinking water throughout the city that is high-quality, safe, healthy and lead-free, lead service lines and plumbing can introduce lead into drinking water; and

Whereas, Approximately 74,600 properties in the city, including 68,300 residential properties comprising 54.2% of all residential properties in the city, receive water through City-owned lead service lines, and according to Milwaukee Water Works, a property with City-owned lead service lines is likely to also have privately-owned lead service lines; and

Whereas, Various initiatives are being planned or are in action to remove and replace City-owned lead service lines, to encourage property owners to remove and replace privately-owned lead service lines, plumbing and fixtures and to subsidize these costs,

and to provide free or reduced-cost lead filters for the water taps of such households in the meantime; and

Whereas, The Health Department currently recommends that Milwaukee households with pregnant women or children under the age of six where lead service lines are present should have lead filters installed on water taps; and

Whereas, Pregnant women, children, and parents may not have access to accurate information about the presence of City- and privately-owned lead service lines, plumbing, fixtures and lead filters at all times and locations so they can make informed decisions about the risk of lead exposure from drinking water on a case-by-case basis; and

Whereas, The City of Milwaukee recognizes that all residents of the community need access to information on how best to protect themselves and their children from lead in drinking water; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Health Department shall immediately recommend that, for families living in buildings with lead service lines, women of childbearing age (15-45) and children under the age of six, particularly infants and children under the age of one, should not drink unfiltered water (tap water that has not been passed through a filter that removes lead) and should be tested for lead; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Health Department is directed to:

1. Issue a media advisory to inform the public that, for families living in buildings with lead service lines, women of childbearing age (15-45) and children under the age of six, particularly infants and children under the age of one, should not drink unfiltered water and should be tested for lead.
2. Update all Health Department drinking water safety, lead awareness and lead poisoning prevention initiatives, websites, social media messaging, printed materials, outdoor and media advertisements and campaigns, including “Lead Safe Milwaukee”, to inform the public that, for families living in buildings with lead service lines, women of childbearing age (15-45) and children under the age of six, particularly infants and children under the age of one, should not drink unfiltered water and should be tested for lead.
3. Update all relevant Health Department pregnancy and prenatal care initiatives, websites, social media messaging, printed materials, outdoor and media advertisements and campaigns to inform the public that, for families living in buildings with lead service lines, women of childbearing age (15-45) and children under the age of six, particularly infants and children under the age of one, should not drink unfiltered water and should be tested for lead.

4. Communicate recommendations to Milwaukee-area obstetricians, pediatricians and public and private healthcare facilities and partner agencies that, for families living in buildings with lead service lines, women of childbearing age (15-45) and children under the age of six, particularly infants and children under the age of one, should not drink unfiltered water and should be tested for lead.

; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Health Department shall continue to promote these recommendations until this resolution is rescinded or amended by future Common Council action.

..Requestor

..Drafter
LRB168367-2
Dana J. Zelazny
July 13, 2017