



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

October 28, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Debra Shore, Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Shore:

Thank you for the October 19, 2021, letters from Ms. Cheryl Newton to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

We appreciate the ongoing support and oversight of the State of Michigan's "significant and important steps to address the endangerment to public health" from "high lead levels" shown in a portion of test results from drinking water samples taken at Benton Harbor households. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ongoing vigilance and engagement gives us added confidence that the partnership of federal, state, and local officials—and the community—will seize "important opportunities to respond to the short, medium, and long-term needs" of Benton Harbor residents. We are grateful for the urgency all parties have brought to this situation.

In short, EPA's understanding of the basic framework of the State of Michigan's public health response is accurate. The State is currently providing bottled water to residents of the city of Benton Harbor and will continue to do so until further notice. Details on bottled water distribution efforts are provided in the attachment as responses to Ms. Newton's bulleted summary of the State framework and additional inquiries. However, as the letters recognized, the State of Michigan's response is dynamic and fluid, so the details in our responses below change quickly. For more current information, this [page](https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe/) at <https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe/> provides regular updates, as does DHHS's daily bulletins to agency partners and the public (the most recent is attached).

While the State's current focus remains as bottled water distribution, water filters are also available in the community. Ms. Newton's letters requested "an update on the State's plans with regard to the door-to-door filter distribution campaign." That important campaign was paused when community confidence in filters was called into question. We are very anxious to resume more proactive filter distribution and understand the EPA shares that sentiment. To that end, the State respectfully requests your assistance in rebuilding the community confidence in filters that must underpin such an effort for it to be effective.

Ms. Debra Shore
Page 2
October 28, 2021

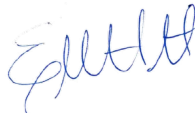
Specifically, we ask that you publicly share EPA's analysis—conveyed to the State in the October 14, 2021, meeting—of the wealth of scientific data on water filter efficacy, as well as your developing plans for further study of filters focused specifically on the city of Benton Harbor's water and a target date for completion of the study. Based on our conversations in the community, EPA's public validation of the City's approach to corrosion control will also be vital for residents to regain confidence in the efficacy of filters in their homes and apartments. Because that confidence will take time to restore, we need to start providing assurance as soon as possible if we hope to more fully and effectively deploy filters soon.

Again, we appreciate EPA's communication, engagement, and oversight. Please contact us or our teams any time if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Liesl Eichler Clark
Director
Michigan Department of Environment,
Great Lakes, and Energy
517-284-6712



Elizabeth Hertel
Director
Michigan Department of Health and
Human Services
517-241-3626

Attachments

cc/att: Ms. Cheryl Newton, Deputy Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 5
Mr. David Knezek, Chief Deputy Director, DHHS
Mr. Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
Ms. Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, EGLE
Mr. James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE
Ms. Kristina Donaldson, Clean Water Public Advocate, EGLE
Ms. Regina Strong, Environmental Justice Public Advocate, EGLE
Mr. Eric Oswald, Director, Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division, EGLE

Responses to EPA's current understanding of the State's framework:

- *Pursuant to the executive directive, residents of Benton Harbor must continue to have access to free bottled water until further notice.*

That is the understanding, intent, and plan of the DHHS and EGLE.

- *City of Benton Harbor residents should use bottled water for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, rinsing foods, and mixing powdered infant formula (and formulas that do not require water may be provided).*

The DHHS and EGLE concur with that statement that reflects our messaging and engagement with Benton Harbor residents.

- *Distribution locations are being identified on a rolling basis, including new locations when they can be confirmed. Distribution times and locations are listed on the Mi Lead Safe website, including a map of locations. The site also has a link to a Water Use in Benton Harbor flyer in English and Spanish.*

The DHHS and EGLE concur with that statement. Upcoming distribution times and locations are also provided in daily press releases (the most recent is attached).

- *Three cases of 24-pack, 16 oz bottles are available per individual at a time, though this is not a hard limit.*

This statement reflects the protocol in place.

- *A hotline, also listed on the website, is available for questions and to arrange water delivery for those who are unable to get to the distribution facilities.*

The DHHS and EGLE concur. A 2-1-1 dial-in system has been deployed and is being consistently publicized. As of Monday, October 25, 632 calls for home delivery have been received and processed using 2-1-1.

- *Deliveries to Benton Harbor Area schools begin the week of October 18th, and pallets of water were delivered to two apartment complexes that house a large number of people.*

That is correct. The deliveries began the week of October 18 and now include a total of 16 schools, daycare centers, and in-home childcare, as well as 4 housing complexes. Additional sites will be identified and served on an ongoing basis.

- *Updates are being provided to community members, including Reverend Pinkney. We understand from Regina Strong, EGLE's Environmental Justice Public Advocate, that some of these community members have been provided opportunities to review communication materials and distribution plans.*

This statement is true. The DHHS and EGLE have worked to establish weekly meetings with community residents and stakeholders. These meetings are intended to facilitate consistent communication between the State and the local community on water distribution and communications efforts, while providing community residents and stakeholders the opportunity to review and provide feedback on forthcoming efforts in those two areas.

- *The State Department of Agriculture is engaged to help address use of water in restaurants, convenience stores, and other non-residential venues.*

This engagement by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the unified State of Michigan response is ongoing.

- *Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan in Benton Harbor will start delivering water along with meals to their clients who live within the city.*

Meals on Wheels has started these deliveries. See more detail below on deliveries to homebound residents.

Additional EPA inquiries on the procedures the State has put in place to provide bottled water and filters:

- *Details of the process for homebound residents obtaining water after they have contacted the hotline.*

Homebound city of Benton Harbor residents or those without access to a vehicle can sign up for bottled water delivery by calling 2-1-1 or the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) hotline. Both agencies use a secure MS Forms link to create a centralized list of requests. Each weekday, the DHHS sends the updated list to the coordinating agency currently working with three community partner agencies to deliver water. The community partner agencies pick up water from the central warehouse before delivering to residents. Additionally, Meals on Wheels is delivering directly to residents on their client list within the city of Benton Harbor.

- *Plans for providing access to bottled water to schools, childcare facilities, or other areas where children may congregate.*

This is covered above. Please let us know if you would like ongoing updates.

- *The mechanisms and frequency for alerting the community about bottled water access, times, and locations, including for non-English speaking residents.*
 - ✓ Sending out daily press releases via Gov Delivery as well as emailing them every night as an update to the 200+ community stakeholder list. Everything is then updated on the website daily as needed, including bottle distribution location information.
 - ✓ Stood up a website: [Mi Lead Safe - Benton Harbor \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe).
 - ✓ We developed a Dos and Don'ts infographic that we pushed out digitally, posted on the website, and shared on social media, as well as printed and delivered to Benton Harbor for distribution at bottle sites and the offices of community partners and area DHHS/BCHD locations. This was also translated into Spanish (see attached).
 - ✓ A mailer is in production to hit affected homes soon with the same information, plus additional resources such as SNAP and ready-to-serve formula. This was also translated into Spanish on the reverse side of the mailer (see attached).
 - ✓ We have boosted social media posts currently running in Benton Harbor and will soon launch an expanded ad campaign, including print, mobile, and digital. Radio ads were slated to begin on October 27 on seven stations in the city of Benton Harbor.
 - ✓ We held a roundtable with community leaders and a press conference last week and have responded to ongoing media requests with information and interviews.
 - ✓ We hold a weekly call with community stakeholders to ensure regular two-way communication and adjust our messaging as needed to meet their needs.

- *Description of the types of equipment and resources available to aid volunteers and paid workers in unloading and distributing water.*

The DHHS is working with other state departments to provide the equipment and trained staff necessary for moving pallets and cases of water (i.e., forklifts and pallet jacks). While this effort helped navigate our supply chain in the short term, a long-term solution takes effect on October 28 as the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency onboards a third-party logistics company to oversee water distribution to state-supported sites seven days per week.

- *Copies of the various fact sheets, scripts, and related communication materials that accompany the pickup or delivery of bottled water.*

[Mi Lead Safe - Benton Harbor \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe)

[10-8-21 Water Use in Benton Harbor Bottled Water 737998 7.pdf \(michigan.gov\)](#)

- *An overview of any other important components of your framework not included here, including additional detail on avenues for engagement of local and community leaders in the iterative planning process.*

Replacement of lead service lines is a necessary step to assure safe drinking water. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has called for the replacement of all the service lines in Benton Harbor within 18 months. The State of Michigan is working to expedite contracting for that work.

- *EPA recognizes the State's focus is currently on bottled water distribution. Please provide an update on the State's plans with regard to the door-to-door filter distribution campaign, including as many details as possible about approaches, community engagement, and copies of materials.*

The timing of the resumption of door-to-door filter distribution will hinge on restoring resident confidence in filters, which has recently been compromised. Key steps in restoring that confidence, including the assistance EPA can provide, are mentioned above. Planning and material development remains ongoing.

Attachments

Water Use in Benton Harbor

City of Benton Harbor residents are being asked to use bottled water while work is completed to provide assurance that efforts like filtering are proving effective in reducing lead exposure. Free bottled water will continue to be distributed to City of Benton Harbor residents through a local-state partnership.

For more information, or to learn of bottled water distribution location, please call 2-1-1 or visit Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe. Scan the QR code to find locations and times to pick up free bottled water. Berrien County Health Department's water hotline can also be reached at 800-815-5485, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Tap water can be used for:



Showering or bathing
(avoid swallowing water).



Washing hands.



Washing dishes.



Laundry.



Cleaning.

Bottled water should be used for:



Drinking.



Cooking.



Rinsing foods.



Making baby formula.



Brushing teeth.



Do not use hot water from your tap for drinking or cooking. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Do not try to remove lead by boiling the water. Lead is not removed by boiling. Water evaporates during boiling, so the amount of lead in the water may end up higher than before boiling.

Uso de agua en Benton Harbor

Se les pide a los residentes de la ciudad de Benton Harbor que utilicen agua en botella mientras se completan las obras para garantizar que esfuerzos como el filtrado resulten eficaces para reducir la exposición al plomo. Se seguirá distribuyendo agua en botella gratuita a los residentes de la ciudad de Benton Harbor por medio de una colaboración local-estatal.

Para obtener más información, o para saber sobre la ubicación de la distribución de agua en botella, llame al 2-1-1 o visite Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe. Escanee el código QR para encontrar las ubicaciones y horarios para recoger agua en botella gratuita. También puede contactarse con la línea de ayuda del Departamento de Salud del condado de Berrien al 800-815-5485, de lunes a viernes, de 8:30 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.



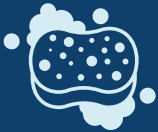
El agua del grifo puede usarse para:



Ducharse o bañarse
(evite tragar agua).



Lavarse las manos.



Lavar los platos.



Lavar ropa.



Limpiar.

El agua en botella debe utilizarse para:



Beber.



Cocinar.



Enjuagar alimentos.



Preparar fórmula para bebés.



Cepillarse los dientes.



No utilice agua caliente del grifo para beber o cocinar. El plomo se disuelve con mayor facilidad en agua caliente.

No intente eliminar el plomo hirviendo el agua. El plomo no se elimina al hervir el agua. El agua se evapora cuando hierve, por lo que la cantidad plomo en el agua puede acabar siendo mayor que antes de hervirla.

Resources for City of Benton Harbor

Tap water can be used for:



Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing water).



Laundry.



Washing hands.



Cleaning.



Washing dishes.

Bottled water should be used for:



Drinking.



Making baby formula.



Cooking.



Brushing teeth.



Rinsing foods.



Do not use hot water from your tap for drinking or cooking. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Do not try to remove lead by boiling the water. Lead is not removed by boiling. Water evaporates during boiling, so the amount of lead in the water may end up higher than before boiling.

Water Distribution

Dates and locations for bottled water pick up is posted on Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe. To arrange water delivery to homebound or residents without transportation in the City of Benton Harbor, please contact 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Scan the QR code to find locations and times to pick up free bottled water.



Food and Other Assistance Programs

Benton Harbor families in need of support may be eligible to receive food assistance and other state assistance program benefits like health care coverage, childcare, utility relief and cash assistance. To learn more, call 2-1-1 or apply for benefits and explore local resources at Michigan.gov/MIBridges.

To protect Benton Harbor's youngest residents and prevent lead exposure, the Michigan WIC program will begin providing ready-to-feed formula that does not require mixing with water to Benton Harbor eligible WIC clients. Ready-to-feed formula is available like current formula benefits, using the WIC EBT card at authorized WIC vendors. Clients will be contacted by text messages or a call from the Michigan WIC office.

For general questions about lead:

MDHHS can be reached at 866-691-5323
Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 800-648-6942 (TTY: 711).

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 800-648-6942 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 711-TTY).

Recursos para la ciudad de Benton Harbor

El agua de grifo puede usarse para:



Duchase o bañarse (evite tragar agua).



Lavar ropa.



Lavarse las manos.



Limpia.



Lavar los platos.

El agua en botella debe usarse para:



Beber.



Preparar fórmula para bebés.



Cocinar.



Cepillarse los dientes.



Enjuagar alimentos.



No utilice agua caliente del grifo para beber o cocinar. El plomo se disuelve con mayor facilidad en agua caliente.

No intente eliminar el plomo hirviendo el agua. El plomo no se elimina al hervir el agua. El agua se evapora cuando hierve, por lo que la cantidad plomo en el agua puede acabar siendo mayor que antes de hervirla.

Distribución del agua

Las fechas y lugares de recogida de agua en botella se publican en Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe. Para organizar la entrega de agua a domicilio o a residentes sin transporte en la ciudad de Benton Harbor, por favor contacte con el 2-1-1 que está disponible 24 horas al día, siete días a la semana.

Escanee el código QR para encontrar las ubicaciones y horarios para recoger agua en botella gratuita.



Programas de alimentos y otros programas de ayuda

Las familias de Benton Harbor que necesitan ayuda pueden ser elegibles para recibir asistencia alimentaria y otros beneficios del programa de asistencia estatal como cobertura de atención médica, cuidado infantil, ayuda con servicios públicos y asistencia en efectivo. Para saber más, llame al 2-1-1 o solicite los beneficios y explore los recursos locales en Michigan.gov/MIBridges.

Para proteger a los residentes más pequeños de Benton Harbor y prevenir la exposición al plomo, el programa WIC de Michigan comenzará a proporcionar fórmula lista que no requiere que se mezcle con agua a los clientes de WIC elegibles de Benton Harbor. La fórmula lista para usar está disponible como los beneficios actuales de fórmula, usando la tarjeta EBT de WIC con los vendedores autorizados de WIC. Los clientes serán contactados por mensaje de texto o una llamada de la oficina de WIC de Michigan.

Por preguntas generales sobre el plomo:

Puede contactarse con el MDHHS al 866-691-5323 De lunes a viernes, de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m.



El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Michigan (MDHHS, por sus siglas en inglés) no discrimina a ninguna persona o grupo por motivos de raza, religión, edad, origen nacional, color, altura, peso, estado civil, información genética, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género o autoexpresión, creencias políticas o discapacidad.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 800-648-6942 (TTY: 711).

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 800-648-6942 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 711-TTY).



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Oct. 27, 2021

CONTACT: Bob Wheaton
517-281-1701
WheatonB@michigan.gov

MDHHS bottled water distribution continues with announcement of upcoming schedule

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is announcing additional bottled water distribution to Benton Harbor residents.

Free bottled water is being provided by the state as residents are being encouraged to [use bottled water for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, rinsing foods and mixing powdered infant formula.](#)

This action is part of an accelerated, across-the-board effort to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water while the city replaces all lead service lines.

The upcoming schedule for bottled water pickup is:

Thursday, Oct. 28

- Ebenezer Baptist Church, 214 E. Britain Ave., 10 a.m.-noon.
- Brotherhood of All Nations, 1286 Monroe St., 4-6 p.m.
- Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller St., 4-6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 29

- Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Self-service)

Saturday, Oct. 30

- Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor, 600 Nate Wells Sr. Drive, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,
- Harbor of Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 739 Pipestone St., 4-6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 31

- Abundant Life Church of God, 693 Columbus Ave., 3-5 p.m.
- Brotherhood of All Nations, 1286 Monroe St., 4-6 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 1

- Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Self-service)
- Abundant Life Church of God, 693 Columbus Ave., noon-2 p.m.

-MORE-

The ongoing response in Benton Harbor includes the city, Berrien County Health Department, local community organizations, MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

As of the end of the day Tuesday, MDHHS and volunteers had provided 95,829 cases of free bottled water at community distribution sites and deliveries to residents who are homebound or lack access to transportation.

Additional dates and locations for bottled water pick up will be added to make sure community needs are met. Information will be posted on Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe.

MDHHS is engaging in a long-term effort to eliminate lead action level exceedances, educate communities on the effects of lead in drinking water, and remove lead service lines. This collaborative effort includes the City of Benton Harbor, the Berrien County Health Department, local community organizations, MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

These efforts also include recently approved funds to remove lead from homes in the city. Families living in Benton Harbor can apply for this service by filling out and mailing in [an application that is available online](#). Residents also can call 866-691-5323 to obtain information.

For questions about lead, MDHHS can be reached at 866-691-5323 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

###

Shaler, Karen (EGLE)

From: Knezek, David (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Brown, Melanie; Brown, Tiffany; Clark, Liesl (EGLE); Clift, James (EGLE); Cook, Kara; Dale, Julia (UIA); Draheim, Andy (EGLE); Epkey, Amy (EGLE); Foster, Tricia; George, Dale (MSP); Hertel, Elizabeth (DHHS); Holton, Jennifer (MDARD); Huls, JoAnne; Keatley, Aaron (EGLE); Lange, Michelle (DTMB); Roubal, Lewis (DHHS); Stibitz, Brom (DTMB); Strong, Regina (EGLE); Tooman, Diane; Totten, Mark
Subject: 10/27/21 SITREP : Benton Harbor

Updated items are in **YELLOW**. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns.

David
517-245-5551

ROLLING TOTALS

Timeframe	Cases Distributed
Previously Reported	91,713
Tuesday, October 26	4,116
Lifetime	Cases Distributed
Tuesday, September 30 - Present	95,829

WEEK AHEAD DELIVERIES

Day	Date	Trucks
Monday	October 25, 2021	4
Tuesday	October 26, 2021	4
Wednesday	October 27, 2021	4
Thursday	October 28, 2021	4
Friday	October 29, 2021	7
Saturday	October 30, 2021	3
Sunday	October 31, 2021	n/a

Week of October 25 Totals	
Trucks	26
Cases of Water	45,188

Weekly Targets	
Cases of Water	30,000

Percent to Targets	151%
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WEEK AHEAD POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION

Day	Date	Time Start	Time End	Location
Monday	October 25, 2021	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	SMCAA (Self-Service)
		12:00 PM	2:00 PM	Abundant Life Church of God
Tuesday	October 26, 2021	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	SMCAA (Self-Service)
		12:00 PM	2:00 PM	Abundant Life Church of God
		4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Ebenezer Baptist Church
Wednesday	October 27, 2021	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	SMCAA
Thursday	October 28, 2021	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Ebenezer Baptist Church
		4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Brotherhood of All Nations
		4:00 PM	6:00 PM	SMCAA
Friday	October 29, 2021	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	SMCAA (Self-Service)
Saturday	October 30, 2021	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	Boys & Girls Club
		4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Harbor of Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Sunday	October 31, 2021	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Abundant Life Church of God
		4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Brotherhood of All Nations

2-1-1 FIELD CONTACTS

Timeframe	Incoming 2-1-1 Calls	
	Distribution	Home Delivery
Previously Reported	332	632
Tuesday, October 26	6	34

Lifetime	Incoming 2-1-1 Calls	
	Distribution	Home Delivery
Saturday, October 9 - Present	338	66-

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- Weekly - Thursdays, 10:30am – MDHHS, EGLE, EOG, and EPA – Weekly check-in meeting with Benton Harbor Community Partners
- Daily – MDHHS, EGLE, EOG – to continue alignment on communications and stakeholder engagement in Benton Harbor

NEW ITEMS

- Payment for volunteers and host locations, retroactive to 10/1, are still on pace for issuance this week. United Way and internal operations have finalized the payment agreement. MDHHS comms is anticipating a Thursday, 10/28 announcement.
- Director Hertel was interviewed today by Black News Channel, ABC 57 and WNDU-16 in South Bend on CMS funding for lead abatement in Benton Harbor.

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- DTMB, EGLE, and Benton Harbor are working through more detailed next steps and target dates for a financial contract and lead service line replacement contracts.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Press Releases (New)
 - Wednesday, October 27, 2021 – [MDHHS Bottled Water Distribution Continues; Upcoming Schedule – Status: SENT](#)
- Press Releases (Old)
 - Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – [MDHHS Gains Approval of Federal Dollars to Remove Lead From Homes in Benton Harbor](#)
 - Monday, October 25, 2021 – [Neighbors Help Neighbors As Benton Harbor Pulls Together To Provide Free Bottled Water](#)
 - Friday, October 22, 2021 – [Additional Sites Planned for City of Benton Harbor Water Distribution](#)
 - Thursday, October 21, 2021 – [State of Michigan Works with Local Partners to Ensure Benton Harbor Residents Have Safe Water Following Main Break](#)
 - Tuesday, October 19, 2021 – [Weekend Sites Added, Residents Water Usage Reminder](#)
 - Monday, October 18, 2021 – [Delivery, Self-Service Hours Expand](#)
 - Friday, October 15, 2021 – [Updated Weekend Sites, Deliveries Begin to Multifamily Dwellings and Schools](#)
 - Thursday, October 14, 2021 – [Benton Harbor WIC Clients to Receive Ready-to-Feed Formula; Weekend Locations](#)
 - Wednesday, October 13, 2021 – [Community and State Partnerships Expand](#)
 - Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – [Free Bottled Water Continues, Additional Location Announced](#)
 - Monday, October 11, 2021 – [Additional Resources Announced for City of Benton Harbor Residents](#)
 - Sunday, October 10, 2021 – [Week Ahead Points of Distribution](#)
- Community Handout(s)
- Digital
 - Multiple social media posts are in rotation
- Radio/Mobile/Print
 - Radio ads have begun on seven stations in Benton Harbor
 - Print ads have been drafted and are being finalized
- Communications items in the works:
 - Timeline of effort graphic
 - Fact Sheet: Lead
 - Fact Sheet: What is a Water Filter Study?
 - Postcard survey for lead – ON HOLD
 - Feature story/possible media tours of sites and mobile efforts
 - MDHHS Behavioral Health is exploring community resources, will also promote the Stay Well line after funding is approved

ITEMS IN THE WORKS – CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT FINALIZED

- Possibility of voucher distribution to Benton Harbor residents
- Meeting with WalMart, Meijer, Aldi, Save-A-Lot, and Family Dollar to discuss vouchers and home delivery options