



## May 2021 Data Update

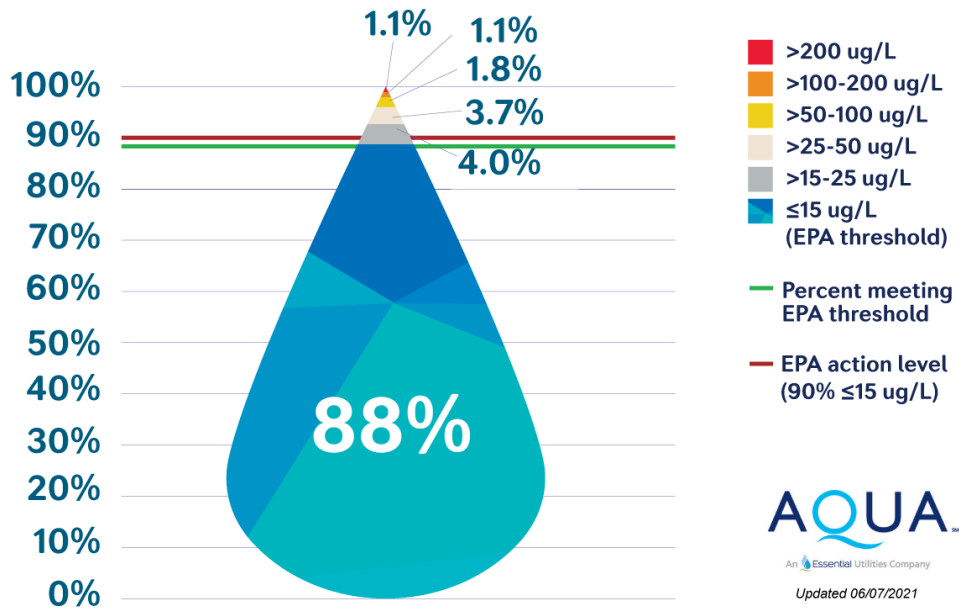
06/10/2021

Water sampling data for the July to December 2020 six-month monitoring period indicated that **water quality in University Park has been restored to below the regulatory lead action level.** This important milestone was confirmed in January 2021 by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

So far in 2021, 88 percent of all compliance samples have tested at or below the regulatory threshold for lead of 15 micrograms per liter (ug/L). Compliance sampling for this six-month monitoring period continues through June.

### University Park's Water for In-Progress Monitoring Period

State and federal drinking water regulations require that 90 percent of regularly sampled homes have lead levels of 15 ug/L or less as measured over six month monitoring periods. This graphic represents the months of January-May 2021 for the in-progress monitoring period.



State and federal drinking water regulations require that 90 percent of regularly sampled homes have lead levels of 15 ug/L or less as measured over six-month monitoring periods.

To view a table listing all compliance sample results from the January-May sampling events, please see Appendix A at the end of this document.

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The water treatment establishes a protective coating, which stops lead inside some customers' home plumbing from interacting with fresh water flowing into their homes.

When water providers meet the lead action-level like we have, regulators continue working with the provider to confirm the treatment is "optimized." This means validating that the treatment is as effective as possible for the water system (based on other important water quality aspects like water pH). As part of our ongoing monitoring and sampling protocols, we continue collaborating with regulators on this process.

To our customers: Thank you for your ongoing patience and cooperation. As we move forward, we will continue to be here for you while we rebuild trust.

Call **877.987.2782** at any time to request water sampling.

See below for more information about compliance sampling and our process, and to view our archived data updates.



## More Information About Compliance Sampling

### The Lead and Copper Rule and Compliance Sampling Requirements

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through its Lead and Copper Rule, requires water utilities to work with their customers to collect regularly scheduled stagnation samples, or compliance samples. These samples must be taken after water has remained in customers' pipes unused for six or more hours, therein providing high-case scenario data for lead exposure.

Under the rule, utilities must choose sample locations that represent properties with the highest inventory of lead. For example, so-called "Tier 1" locations include those with lead service lines (there are no lead service lines in University Park) or lead solder on copper pipes within homes constructed after 1982.

### Compliance Sampling in University Park

IEPA regulations require that we work with at least 40 homes and businesses in the University Park service area to conduct compliance sampling. Sample locations must be submitted to the IEPA for approval before compliance sampling can begin.

We collected regularly scheduled samples in May 2019 as part of our biannual compliance testing schedule. On June 13, 2019, we began receiving those sampling results, some of which showed elevated lead levels. As a result, alongside our extensive community outreach that included providing resources and public education, we began working with the IEPA on a treatment plan and voluntarily increased sampling frequency to help us understand and monitor progress.

To complete compliance sampling, participating customers help us collect samples after their water has been unused for six or more hours. We then send the samples to an independent lab for testing.

### What We Believe Happened and How We Are Treating the Water

Water quality in University Park is restored to below the regulatory lead action level for the July to December 2020 monitoring period. In January 2021, the IEPA confirmed this important milestone, and we continue collaborating with state regulators on treatment and monitoring.

On June 14, 2019, we immediately issued an advisory requesting that customers temporarily not consume unfiltered water in the service area **to be as protective as**

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**possible** after receiving compliance samples that showed elevated lead levels in 14 homes on June 13, 2019. Right away, we began investigating and gathering information to restore the water quality for our customers.

It is important to note that no state or federal regulation required us to take this unprecedented advisory action. We voluntarily took this precautionary step to protect the public until we learned more about the extent, cause and level of the issue AND until we could formalize our voluntary system to provide alternative sources of water.

Throughout our response, we have offered resources and guidance for customers on how to consume their tap water and educational resources and tips for home water use.

Our information shows that there was never lead in the source water or our University Park infrastructure. To date, we have identified that the likely cause of elevated lead levels in a limited number of homes was due to water chemistry interacting with lead solder and other lead sources in the internal plumbing of homes built prior to 1990. Homes built after 1990 are not expected to have lead solder because the use of lead solder was banned by law in the mid-1980s.

Within 30 days of discovering the exceedance, in coordination with the IEPA, we removed several areas and hundreds of homes from the advisory based on property age and water sample results.

Since June 2019, we have been working with state regulators and national water chemistry experts to treat the water. These routine water treatments are known for their ability to create a protective coating where lead is present in customers' internal plumbing, keeping the lead out of the water we consume. It is important to note that these treatments are not harmful to humans or pets.

Restoring the water quality represents a major milestone in the community, and we remain committed to supporting our customers as we restore water confidence.



## **A Message from the IEPA**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates there is no safe blood lead level in children. Lead exposures come from a combination of environmental sources, which may include lead in water. U.S. EPA estimates that water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead, and infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40-60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. The source of lead in water is most often from a building's plumbing system.

The IEPA and Illinois Department of Public Health support point-of-use (POU) filters as a short-term strategy for reducing lead in drinking water. *(Please note: Aqua Illinois is providing free faucet filters and pitcher filters to customers in University Park).* A POU system filters water at the point where water is being used and is installed at the water connection, typically under the sink in the kitchen or bathroom. Water pitchers with POU filters may also be used. POU filters are commercially available and can be effective at removing most lead. There are several POU cartridge filter units on the market. They can vary in price and effectiveness. Filters should routinely be replaced or maintained in accordance with manufacturers guidelines and recommendations to remain effective.

To select a lead-reducing POU filter, check with the manufacturer or a third-party website (such as [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)) to verify the product was tested and certified for lead removal (NSF/ANSI Standard 53). For additional protection for particulate lead, look for a POU filter that is also certified against NSF/ANSI Standard 42 (for class I particulate reduction, 0.5 micrometers to less than 1 micrometers). To be effective, the POU filters should be installed at locations used for drinking water or for food preparation according to the manufacturer's instructions. This includes kitchen water faucets and refrigerators with water dispensers and ice makers or in water pitchers.

POU filters should be considered an interim measure until [effective treatment is restored, or] the sources of lead have been removed and replaced with lead free plumbing materials. After replacement of lead plumbing materials or disturbance of a plumbing system, the plumbing system should be flushed for 30 minutes with aerators and screens removed from all faucets. Because you cannot see, smell, or taste lead in water, testing the water is the only way to determine if lead is present in drinking water.

To access additional information about lead in drinking water and a consumer tool for identifying POU filters certified to reduce lead, please visit U.S. EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> and <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-pou-drinking-water-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.



Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. To access more information about other sources of lead, please visit IDPH's website at: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/illinoislead>. Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.



**Appendix A:**  
**Compliance sample results, in ug/L, January-May 2021**

Samples	Home ID	ug/L
1	4	<1.0
2	5	<1.0
3	6	<1.0
4	7	<1.0
5	8	<1.0
6	9	<1.0
7	10	4.1
8	11	<1.0
9	12	<1.0
10	13	1.2
11	14	<1.0
12	16	4.1
13	17	<1.0
14	20	16
15	21	1.1
16	23	<1.0
17	27	<1.0
18	29	1.2
19	30	<1.0
20	31	<1.0
21	32	<1.0
22	33	32
23	34	<1.0
24	43	<1.0
25	44	8.2
26	45	<1.0
27	47	<1.0
28	48	<1.0
29	50	9.2



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30	53	3.0
31	54	<1.0
32	56	<1.0
33	57	13
34	58	3.8
35	60	<1.0
36	61	27
37	62	<1.0
38	63	<1.0
39	64	2.2
40	65	<1.0
41	66	<1.0
42	67	<1.0
43	70	<1.0
44	72	3.8
45	73	8.1
46	74	<1.0
47	75	1.3
48	76	<1.0
49	77	1.4
50	78	<1.0
51	79	<1.0
52	80	1.9
53	81	3.4
54	82	2.6
55	84	<1.0
56	85	10
57	87	3.2
58	88	<1.0
59	90	8.2
60	91	<1.0
61	5	<1.0
62	6	<1.0
63	7	1.0





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64	8	<1.0
65	9	<1.0
66	10	190
67	12	<1.0
68	13	1.2
69	16	4.9
70	20	6.4
71	21	1.3
72	23	1.4
73	27	<1.0
74	29	<1.0
75	30	<1.0
76	31	<1.0
77	34	<1.0
78	43	<1.0
79	44	10
80	45	<1.0
81	47	5
82	48	5.1
83	50	20
84	51	<1.0
85	53	2.4
86	54	<1.0
87	56	2.6
88	57	16
89	58	19
90	60	5.6
91	61	14
92	62	<1.0
93	63	<1.0
94	64	1.1
95	65	<1.0
96	66	<1.0
97	67	<1.0



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98	68	<1.0
99	70	<1.0
100	71	83
101	72	3.6
102	73	7
103	74	<1.0
104	75	<1.0
105	77	9.8
106	78	<1.0
107	79	<1.0
108	80	1.2
109	81	2.4
110	82	3.6
111	84	<1.0
112	85	5.3
113	87	1.0
114	91	<1.0
115	94	<1.0
116	4	<1.0
117	5	<1.0
118	6	<1.0
119	7	<1.0
120	8	<1.0
121	9	<1.0
122	10	17
123	11	<1.0
124	12	<1.0
125	13	<1.0
126	14	<1.0
127	16	3.4
128	20	26
129	23	<1.0
130	27	2.6
131	28	11



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132	29	<1.0
133	30	<1.0
134	31	<1.0
135	32	37
136	34	<1.0
137	43	<1.0
138	45	<1.0
139	47	<1.0
140	48	<1.0
141	50	11
142	51	17
143	53	3
144	54	41
145	56	1.8
146	57	1100
147	58	<1.0
148	60	2.6
149	61	42
150	62	<1.0
151	63	1.1
152	64	9.5
153	65	<1.0
154	66	<1.0
155	67	<1.0
156	68	<1.0
157	70	<1.0
158	72	<1.0
159	73	18
160	74	1.9
161	75	1
162	77	3.4
163	78	<1.0
164	79	<1.0
165	80	79



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166	81	9.3
167	82	<1.0
168	84	<1.0
169	89	<1.0
170	90	14
171	91	<1.0
172	94	<1.0
173	4	1.9
174	5	<1.0
175	7	40
176	8	<1.0
177	9	<1.0
178	10	1.6
179	11	<1.0
180	12	<1.0
181	13	170
182	16	4.9
183	23	2.3
184	27	<1.0
185	29	<1.0
186	30	<1.0
187	31	<1.0
188	34	<1.0
189	43	<1.0
190	44	28
191	45	<1.0
192	47	<1.0
193	50	20
194	53	8.5
195	54	470
196	56	4.7
197	58	52
198	60	<1.0
199	61	9.0



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200	62	<1.0
201	63	<1.0
202	64	6.1
203	65	<1.0
204	66	<1.0
205	67	<1.0
206	68	1.5
207	70	<1.0
208	72	15
209	73	3.5
210	74	<1.0
211	75	<1.0
212	77	11
213	78	<1.0
214	79	<1.0
215	80	5.4
216	81	<1.0
217	82	<1.0
218	84	<1.0
219	85	35
220	87	1.5
221	91	<1.0
222	94	<1.0
223	2	<1.0
224	5	<1.0
225	7	98
226	8	<1.0
227	9	<1.0
228	10	<1.0
229	13	18
230	16	18
231	17	<1.0
232	21	<1.0
233	23	1.0



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234	27	6.5
235	28	1.2
236	29	13
237	30	<1.0
238	31	2.3
239	34	<1.0
240	42	<1.0
241	43	<1.0
242	45	5.3
243	46	<1.0
244	48	<1.0
245	51	<1.0
246	53	4.6
247	54	350
248	56	11
249	58	120
250	60	<1.0
251	61	33
252	62	<1.0
253	63	2.2
254	66	<1.0
255	67	<1.0
256	68	7.3
257	70	23
258	72	78
259	73	5.5
260	74	<1.0
261	75	<1.0
262	76	8.6
263	77	7
264	78	1.1
265	79	<1.0
266	80	12
267	81	<1.0



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268	82	1.5
269	86	<1.0
270	88	<1.0
271	91	<1.0
272	94	<1.0

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