

# Health Alert for Webster County



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**WEBSTER COUNTY**  
Health Unit

Some Webster Co. private drinking wells have been found to contain unsafe lead levels.

See full fact sheet on back concerning health issues.

There is no safe level of lead exposure for children.

## THE WATER IN YOUR HOME

Lead is naturally occurring in Missouri, so drinking groundwater from private wells can put you at risk. Lead can also be in the groundwater due to historic lead mining or enter your water through lead pipe and fixture breakdowns.

### STEPS TO MAKE YOUR WATER SAFER



Test your water for lead to determine if you have elevated levels.

- Free home tests are available from the Webster Co. Health Unit and on the Mobile Health Unit.

#### For water testing above 0.015 milligrams/liter.



- Filter cooking and drinking water for safety.
- The best filters for lead removal are marked NSF-53.
- A water pitcher filter or faucet-mount filter can be used to filter water before cooking or drinking. Follow manufacturers recommendations for servicing the filter.
- Cleaning and bathing water is okay without filtering.



Additional Option: Install a Reverse Osmosis (R/O) system. R/O is very effective, but may require electricity, and is more expensive. Look for a R/O system that is marked with NSF 58. Follow manufacturers recommendations for installation and service.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &**  
**SENIOR SERVICES**

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# Lead

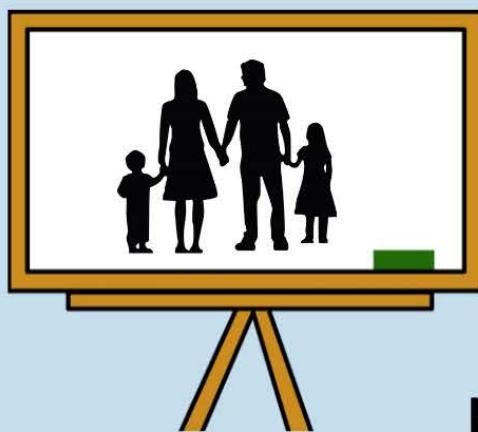
## Heavy Metal with Heavier Consequences

*There is no safe level of lead in the body, any amount of lead is toxic. Some symptoms are not obvious, which is why testing for lead is so important.*

*Lead exposure can cause life-long health issues in **children** and **adults**.*

*Health issues for Adults may impact their ability to work.*

*Children under age 6 are at highest risk of lead poisoning!*



## Health Issues in Adults

- Memory loss, mood swings, trouble focusing, headaches and sadness.
- Speech troubles and damage to the nervous system.
- High blood pressure.
- Tiredness, muscle and joint pain.
- Poor appetite, nausea and constipation.
- Abnormal kidney function and damage.
- Abnormal function of the reproductive system.
- Miscarriage.

## Health Issues in Children

- Lower IQ.
- Behavior problems.
- Learning disabilities.
- Hearing Loss.
- Bone and muscle breakdown.
- Slow growth.
- Low red blood cells.
- Abnormal kidney function and damage.



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