



# Getting Lead Out: LSLs, Schools, Childcares

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for the House Health Finance and Policy Committee

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# No safe level of lead exposure

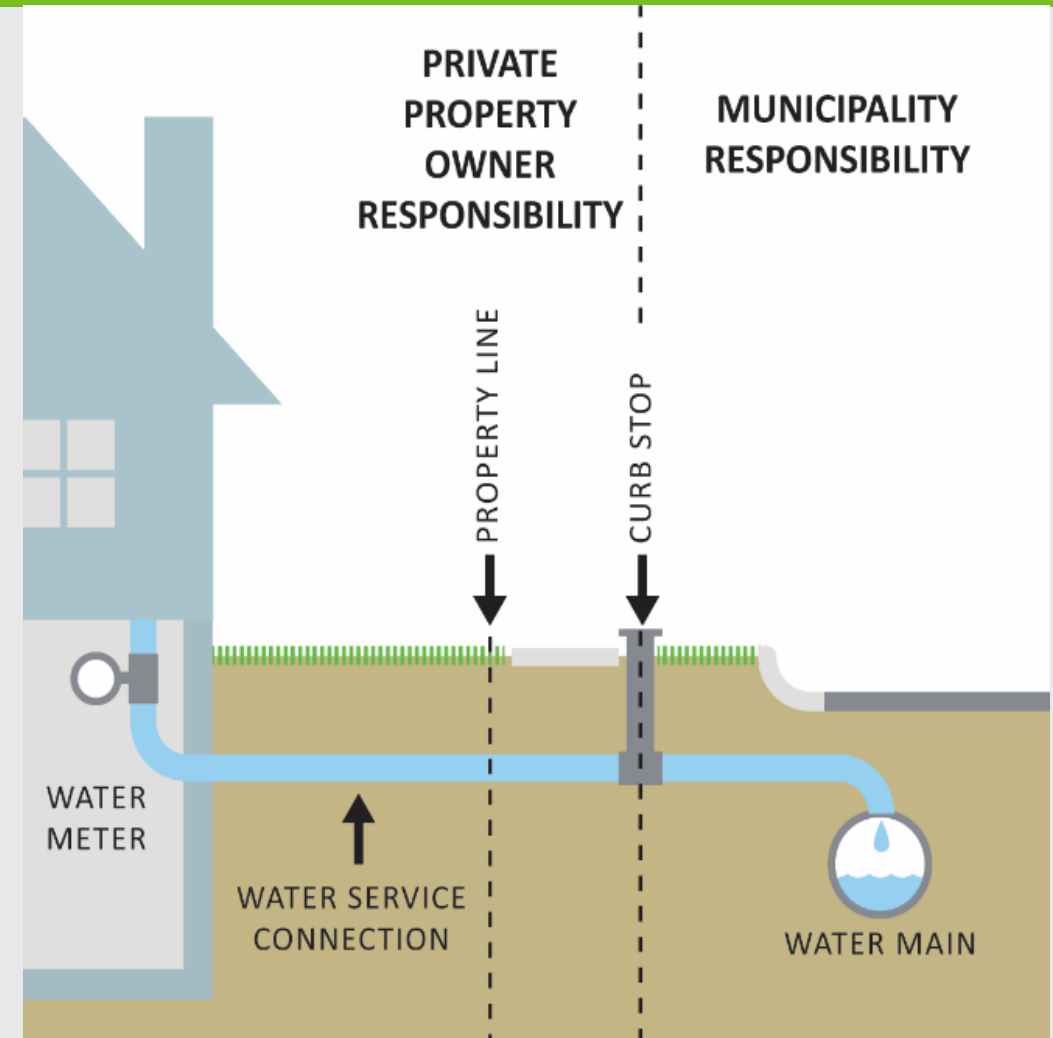
## Two main sources of lead:

### 1. Lead service Lines

- ✓ Adds 50% of lead in drinking water
- ✓ Estimate 100,000 in MN
- ✓ Public/private ownership

### 2. Premise plumbing

- ✓ Pipes, solder, and fixtures
- ✓ After 1986 could be 8%; after 1996 no more than 0.25%
- ✓ Flushing can help, but not solve problem



# \$1 investment = \$2 benefit to Minnesotans

# \$1

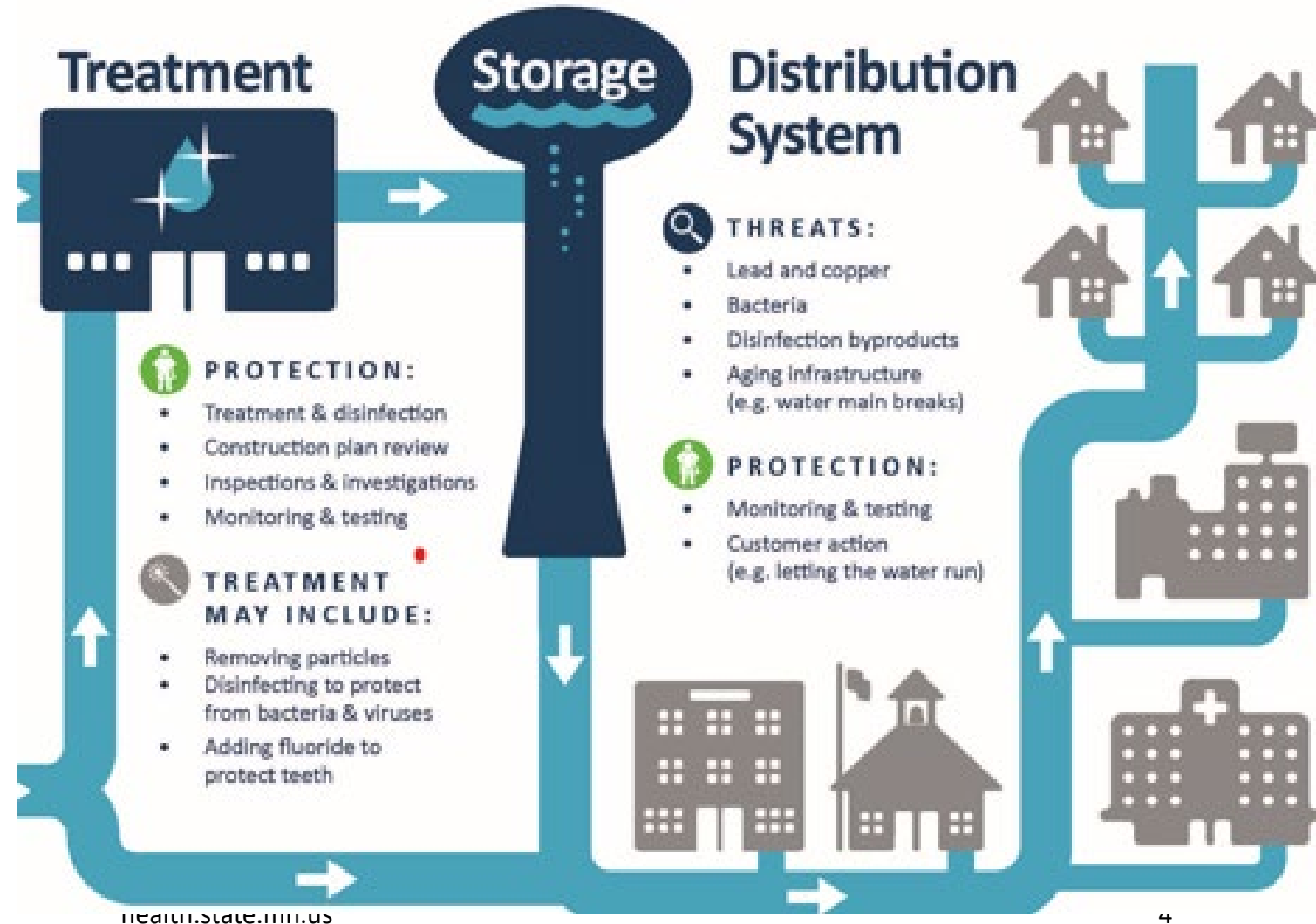
Costs		
	Low \$	High \$
<b>Fixtures/Solder</b>	1.2 B	3.7 B
<b>LSL Replacement</b>	0.2 B	0.4 B
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	0.06 B	0.06 B
<b>TOTAL</b>	1.5 B	4.1 B

# \$2

Benefits		
	Low \$	High \$
<b>IQ/earning gain - fixtures</b>	2.1 B	4.2 B
<b>IQ/earning gain – LSL removal</b>	2.1 B	4.2 B
<b>TOTAL</b>	4.2 B	8.5 B

# LSL Inventory and Asset Management

- LSL inventories required
- Deadline: October 2024
- CWS lack resources
- Add LSL location information to existing online *Infrastructure Stress Transparency Tool*



- Governor's Proposal for LSL Inventories and Asset Management Plan
  - \$3,750,000/year for two years + 2 staff
  - ~750 water systems @ \$10,000/system
- Lead service line inventory is part of an overall asset management plan
- Asset management: proactive planning for future rate and infrastructure needs

# Current Lead Service Line Replacement Funding

- Lead Service Line (LSL) Funding is available through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF)
- Currently, the privately-owned portion of the LSL can receive a 50% grant, but the entire LSL must be replaced to receive grant funds.
- The remaining balance of the LSL replacement cost can come from a DWRF loan, but it is not required. Current rates are around 1% for 20 years.
- The community water system (CWS) needs to apply for the DWRF and can pass the grant dollars on to the customers.
- The CWS can structure their own program for disbursement of the funds.

# Future Lead Service Line Replacement Funding

- Funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for LSL replacement will pass through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF)
- IIJA Funding for Minnesota - \$43 million/year for 5 years
- Funds must be disbursed as 49% grant/51% DWRF loan
- The community water system will need to apply for funding
- Proposed MN legislative changes will allow for the use of the grant funds for replacement of the entire LSL



# Lead in Schools-MN Legislation



## Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

A TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND MODEL PLAN FOR  
MINNESOTA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**mi** MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## MN Statute 121A.335 (2018):

- Model Plan for testing developed by MDH and MDE.
- Does not require specific action at a particular level but provides guidance for different situations. Every school is unique and there are many actions that can be taken to reduce lead exposure.
- Requires public and charter schools test lead in drinking water at all taps used for cooking/drinking. Testing occurs at least once every 5 years.
- Must make results and any remediation steps publicly available.
- Not required to provide results to MDH
- May use Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan.



# Funding Sources for Schools and Childcares

**MDE:** Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan Funds may be used for public schools to pay for testing *and* remediation. However, may reduce ability of school to pay for other maintenance needs.

## **MDH:**

- **Current: Lead Testing Program:** uses federal EPA WIIN grant dollars to provide testing supplies and laboratory analysis of samples to public schools and licensed childcares. Does not currently fund remediation. Total Allotment: \$1.6 million
- **2022 Proposed:** Lead Remediation in Schools and Childcare Settings grant program. Total Requested: \$5.1 million for FY23-FY24.



## Private Wells Serving Homes and Child Cares:

- Sources of lead can include components used in well construction and household plumbing materials. Lead service line is not commonly used from the well to the home.
- MDH includes recommendations for well water testing for lead in the Well Owners Handbook.

## Rental Properties

- Those served by community water systems will be eligible for LSL replacement through DWRF
- Challenge: Protections for renters when lead is found in drinking water. Renters and landlords don't know what their rights and responsibilities are when premise plumbing is the cause of lead in drinking water hazards.





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Drinking water  
is safe for  
everyone,  
everywhere in  
Minnesota.





# Infrastructure Mapping Tool

- Tools already exist in Minnesota for mapping infrastructure age/needs.
- MDH is currently collaborating with UMN to update the Infrastructure Tracking Tool to incorporate lead service line inventories to make them available to the public.
- <http://www.osa.state.mn.us/maps/index.html>

## Spatial Tool Maps State's Emerging Infrastructure Needs

February 19, 2016

by Kevin Coss

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Cities around the nation are grappling with the need to maintain and renovate the often-overlooked infrastructure that supports services like drinking water and sewage systems. In extreme situations improperly maintained systems can result in health hazards like those caused by the water quality crisis in Flint, Mich. In Minnesota, 5.5 million people depend on the state's aging infrastructure, which will require maintenance and replacement over the next few decades to stay safe and reliable.