

## **Lead Service Line Replacement at Child Care Facilities**

The Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) replaces lead service lines (LSL) with copper at buildings that house state licensed and certified child cares. Most often, the buildings are private homes. Replacements are made to protect children under the age of six who are most at risk for lead poisoning. The program began in 2016 and was mandated in 2018 by the Common Council. Milwaukee Public Schools school buildings do not have lead service lines because the service lines are much larger to provide greater quantities of water than that provided by a 5/8" or 3/4" residential line that may be made of lead. MWW replaces lead service lines at charter schools which operate out of buildings more likely to have a smaller service line which are commonly made of lead.

The City of Milwaukee pays the cost to replace both the privately-owned and utility-owned sections of the lead service line at child care facilities.

Each month, the MWW Lead Service Line Replacement Program staff reviews the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families website for a current listing of facilities providing:

- Certified Care (3 or fewer children under age 7 in care)
- Licensed Family Child Care (up to 8 children under age 7)
- Licensed Group Child Care (9 or more children under age 7)

We mail a letter to the property owner advising them the LSL at the property must be replaced and asks for an in-person meeting within 30 days. In the meeting, MWW staff explains the procedure for the LSLR.

- The work will be done at no charge to the property owner.
- Replacement typically takes one work day with a water shutoff of two-three hours.
- The property owner signs paperwork including a temporary right of entry, construction easement, etc.

The LSL replacement may result in temporary increases in lead at the taps, so the child care receives bottled water service for 30 days or until water samples collected by the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) indicate lead levels have returned to levels within federal guidelines. The bottled water is to be used for cooking and drinking. On the day of work, an outdoor spigot is connected to a hydrant to provide the building with water for washing and toilet flushing. If no spigot is available, the child care must close while work is completed.

After replacement, the owner is reminded to allow MHD to sample the water in the building, and to use the bottled water until the MHD determines lead levels are safe.

Failure to agree to LSL replacement results in a referral to the City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services for enforcement.

The owner is advised that sources of lead may be present in internal plumbing and the owner should consider hiring a licensed plumber to replace it.