



Tom Barrett  
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE  
Commissioner of Health

Raquel M. Filmanowicz  
Health Operations Administrator

**Health Department**

Family and Community Health Services

web site: [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health)

For Immediate Release  
December 23, 2010

Media Contacts: Kwanza Newson Cecilia Gilbert  
414-286-3548 Office 414-286-3261  
414-732-7250 Mobile 414-708-2295

# Milwaukee Water Works conducting independent tests for presence of hexavalent chromium

## *Health Officials assure drinking water is safe*

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) determined there is no current evidence of an imminent public health risk or threat of acute illness as a result of recent reports of extremely low levels of hexavalent chromium in Milwaukee's drinking water. Both the MHD and Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) have agreed to conduct tests and review analysis for further joint agency risk assessment.

Earlier this week the Environmental Working Group reported extremely low levels of hexavalent chromium (also called Chromium-VI) in Milwaukee's distribution system. The finding was based on a single sample taken several months ago from an undisclosed location within the city. Hexavalent chromium is not currently regulated in drinking water, and is being studied by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

An independent laboratory will conduct additional tests on Milwaukee's water to gain more information on hexavalent chromium levels in Milwaukee's distribution system. These tests will include samples from source water entering both water treatment plants, finished water from both treatment plants, and a sample from the distribution system receiving water from each treatment plant. Results are anticipated in early January and will be posted on both the MHD and the MWW websites.

MHD and MWW are committed to protecting public health and will continue to work closely to address this issue in the coming months as well as monitor federal actions regarding Chromium-VI.

The Milwaukee Water Works provides drinking water service to Milwaukee and 15 suburbs: Brown Deer, Butler, Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners, St. Francis, Menomonee Falls, Mequon, New Berlin, Shorewood, Thiensville, Wauwatosa, West Allis and West Milwaukee.

*Think Health. Act Now!*