



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

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DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Free, bottled water continues to be available for City of Benton Harbor residents at high school and Southwest Community Action Agency
Over 300,000 cases of water provided to City of Benton Harbor families

LANSING, Michigan - Free bottled water continues to be provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and distributed by local, paid residents of the City of Benton Harbor.

Residents are being encouraged to [use bottled water for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, rinsing foods and mixing powdered infant formula as](#) part of an accelerated, across-the-board effort to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water while the city replaces all lead service lines. Since September 2021, 302,035 cases of water have been distributed.

To arrange water delivery to homebound or residents without transportation in the City of Benton Harbor, contact 211, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Phones that cannot contact 211 should contact 844-875-9211.

Community volunteers from the following organizations available to assist City of Benton Harbor residents pick up water at **Benton Harbor High School, 870 Colfax Avenue** as follows:

Tuesday, Feb. 1

- 12 – 2 p.m. – Volunteers from Abundant Life C.O.G.I.C.
- 4 – 6 p.m. – Volunteers from Ebenezer Baptist Church

Wednesday, Feb. 2

- 12 – 2 p.m. – Volunteers from Purpose Church Ministries
- 4 – 6 p.m. – Volunteers from Purpose Church Ministries

Thursday, Feb. 3

- 12 - 2 p.m. - Volunteers from Ebenezer Baptist Church
- 4 – 6 p.m. – Volunteers from Brotherhood of All Nations

Saturday, Feb. 5

- 12 – 2 p.m. – Volunteers from Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor
- 2 – 4 p.m. – Volunteers from New Covenant Community Baptist Church

Sunday, Feb. 6

- 2 – 4 p.m. – Volunteers from Abundant Life C.O.G.I.C.

- 4 – 6 pm – Volunteers from Brotherhood of All Nations

Monday, Feb. 7

- 12 – 2 p.m. – Volunteers from Abundant Life C.O.G.I.C.
- 4 – 6 p.m. – Volunteers from New Covenant Community Baptist Church

Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller Street, will host **self-serve water pickup** as follows:

- Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Additional dates and locations for bottled water pick up will be added to make sure community needs are met. Information will be posted on Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe. The ongoing response in Benton Harbor includes the city, Berrien County Health Department, local community organizations, MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called for the [replacement of lead service lines in Benton Harbor in 18 months](#) and the Whitmer-Gilchrist Administration has provided just under \$20 million to Benton Harbor to speed up their service line replacement timeline.

There is no cost to City of Benton Harbor residents [for lead service line replacement](#). To assist with assuring the work can be completed as soon as possible, residents are encouraged to complete the [Water Service Line Replacement Agreement](#) available online. Contractors cannot begin work on any property without property owner authorization. Completed forms can be returned to Abonmarche, 95 West Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 or emailed to bvasher@abonmarche.com.

These efforts also include recently approved funds to remove lead from homes in the city. Families living in Benton Harbor can apply for this service by filling out and mailing [in an application that is available online](#). Residents also can call 866-691-5323 to obtain information.

For questions about lead, MDHHS can be reached at 866-691-5323 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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