

LEAD AND COPPER IN HOSPITAL DRINKING WATER

A hospital contacted us for help after higher-than-acceptable levels of lead and copper were found in their drinking water.

PROBLEM

- Lead and copper are detrimental to health, especially for small children, pregnant women, and high-risk individuals
- Lead issues are controlled by the OEPA
- Potentially negative impact on the hospital's reputation
- Potential legal action against the hospital
- The hospital needed to quickly rectify the problem to keep their patients, staff, and the community healthy and safe, and achieve OEPA compliance

RESULT

Within 8 weeks of working with the EWS team, the hospital had acceptable lead and copper levels. This meant they were compliant, while ensuring the safety of their patients, staff, and the community.

SOLUTION

The EWS team:

- Contacted the OEPA immediately on the hospital's behalf
- Ensured compliance notice postings and bottled water was supplied to the entire hospital until the lead issue could be resolved
- Discussed the problem with the owner of the water system
- Analyzed the potential sources of lead contamination
- Investigated using water samples from within the hospital and water entering the hospital
- Discovered the source of the contamination was pipe connections in the city water lines that contained lead
- Provided hundreds of water samples to the OEPA to meet their requirements
- Developed a plan
- Discussed the plan with the OEPA and water system owner
- Implemented the plan

