



**BERRIEN COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
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For Immediate Release

Contact: Gillian Conrad
(269) 927-5624
gconrad@bchdmi.org

City of Benton Harbor Residents to Continue Use of Bottled Water after Water Main Break
Additional water pick-up locations, delivery made available for residents

(Benton Harbor, Michigan) - The City of Benton Harbor experienced a large water main break today around 4:00pm, which resulted in a system-wide loss of water pressure across the city. The City has issued a warning to residents not to drink the water until further notice. At this time, it is anticipated that water service will be restored within a day.

City water customers have previously been recommended to use bottled water, and should continue to use bottled water for cooking, drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, rinsing foods, and mixing powdered infant formula at this time, as well as after water is restored. After the water pressure is restored, residents should flush the water taps for 5 minutes before using the water for washing hands, showering or bathing.

Free bottled water is being made available to City of Benton Harbor residents through pick up locations as well as by home delivery. Bottled water is available on Thursday, October 21st from 8:00am to 10:00am at the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (331 Miller Street, Benton Harbor) and from 8:00am to 10:00am at Benton Harbor High School (870 Colfax, Benton Harbor). Water trucks will also be available at these locations for residents to obtain larger quantities of water using their own containers for household use, including washing, bathing, and flushing toilets. Residents who cannot make one of the distribution sites and are in need of emergency water delivery should call the Berrien County Health Department hotline at 1-800-815-5485 or 2-1-1.

These precautionary actions are being taken due to the potential for bacteria to enter the water safety after a loss of water pressure. Bacteria are generally not harmful and are common throughout our environment, but a failure of pressure can allow disease causing bacteria to enter the tap water. To assure that the water quality meets state drinking water standards for bacteria and safety can be assured, testing will be conducted after pressure is restored.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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