



Manganese Water Levels FAQ

What is it?

Manganese is a part of our rocks and soil. Our bodies require a small amount of manganese but too much can be harmful to our health, especially for infants. The City of Battle Creek has found levels of manganese in the drinking water higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) acute health advisory level.

Who is at risk?

Infants less than 12 months old are at greater risk from manganese in drinking water than children and adults because:

- their brains are developing rapidly,
- they absorb more manganese and are less able to remove manganese from their bodies, and
- they drink more water and eat more food based on body weight.

How might this affect my baby?

Formula-fed infants get enough manganese from formula to meet their dietary needs. However, they may get too much manganese in their bodies when formula is mixed with water that contains manganese. Too much manganese may affect learning and behavior in infants

Should I be worried about my infant's/child's health?

Adults and children one year and older can continue to safely use tap water for drinking, Infants less than 12 months old should use only bottled water for anything they eat or drink.

Is it okay to use water for washing/laundry/brushing teeth?

Yes. Adults and children of any age can continue to bathe and shower, brush their teeth, and wash clothes, foods, and dishes in tap water.

If I am pregnant or breastfeeding, is drinking tap water safe for my child?

Breastfeeding mothers should consult their healthcare provider since they know your health condition best. The manganese upper limits for breastfeeding mothers are the same as other adults. Given the benefits of breastfeeding infants, mothers should continue to breastfeed infants.

There are currently no recommended restrictions for pregnant women.

What are the symptoms?

It takes a long time to see symptoms.

What about getting my baby tested?

Testing is not recommended at this time. If parents or families are concerned, talk to your doctor.

What should I do now?

For infants less than 12 months old, use bottled water instead of tap water for anything they eat or drink—including water, juice, baby formula, purees, and cereals.

Will water filters or softeners remove it?

For more information on the effectiveness of water filters/softeners, please call the Poison Control Hotline at 800-222-1222

Will it help to boil my water?

NO. Boiling water does not remove the manganese like it does with bacteria. Use bottled water for boiling foods such as pasta and vegetables for infants less than 12 months old.

Where can I find more information?

We have set up a hotline to help with your questions about manganese levels in the water. Please call 269-969-6852, M-F from 8a-5p for help or visit our website at www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth. Information will also be shared on Facebook at [ccpublichealthdepartment](https://www.facebook.com/ccpublichealthdepartment).

- If you have medical questions, please contact your doctor.
- If you have questions about water testing, the water supply in general, or how to get bottled water, contact the City of Battle Creek at 269-966-3311
- For information on Manganese toxicity, call 1-800-648-6942.

Water Distribution

- The City of Battle Creek is distributing water **starting at 4 p.m. today, June 14, 2018** -- one case per family with infants under 12 months old every 24 hours.
- Battle Creek City Hall, 10 N. Division St. – 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Battle Creek Department of Public Works, 150 S. Kendall St. – 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Battle Creek Police Department, 20 N. Division St. – 8 a.m.-8 p.m. seven days per week
- Fire Stations (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days per week at city fire stations 1-6):
 - ♦ Fire Station 1, 195 E. Michigan Ave.
 - ♦ Fire Station 2, 145 N. Washington Ave.
 - ♦ Fire Station 3, 222 Cliff St.
 - ♦ Fire Station 4, 8 S. 20th St.
 - ♦ Fire Station 5, 1170 W. Michigan Ave.
 - ♦ Fire Station 6, 2401 Capital Ave. SW