



November 16, 2018

Update on PFAS Groundwater Contamination



MDHHS and KCHD detail North Kent Exposure Assessment plans
Informational meeting scheduled
KCHD calls for federal drinking water standard

MDHHS and KCHD detail North Kent Exposure Assessment

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) announced on Thursday, November 15 that the two agencies will begin recruiting participants for the North Kent County per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Exposure Assessment.

The PFAS Exposure Assessment will evaluate the relationship between drinking water contaminated with PFAS and the amount in the body. Eligible participants will be drawn from households whose water showed detectable levels of PFAS through testing by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality or the contractor for Wolverine World Wide.

All households with PFAS levels greater than 70 ppt and selected households with levels below 70 ppt will be contacted by MDHHS over the next few months with an invitation to participate. Participants must currently live at the home that was tested and must have lived there on or before January 1, 2018.

Eligible participants will schedule an hour and a half appointment at KCHD's Fuller clinic where they will be asked questions about the ways they may have come into contact with PFAS including drinking water. Afterward, a medical professional will draw approximately 4 teaspoons of blood. The purpose of this exposure assessment is to learn the amount of PFAS in the blood of people from northern Kent County who had PFAS in their drinking water wells. The blood test results will tell an individual the amount of PFAS in their blood at the time it was drawn. The results can NOT tell if the PFAS has harmed that individuals' health or will harm it in the future.

This exposure assessment may enable participants from North Kent County to be part of a larger group of people in the health study that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is planning.



KCHD Supervising Epidemiologist, Brian Hartl speaks to reporters regarding the North Kent Exposure Assessment. Hartl was joined by Dr. Eden Wells, Chief Medical Executive, MDHHS at a news conference held at KCHD on Thursday November, 15. The news conference was streamed live to Facebook and can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Informational Meeting Scheduled for potential participants for Nov 27

MDHHS and KCHD will hold an informational meeting for potential participants in the Exposure Assessment. The meeting will provide more detailed information regarding who will be eligible, how the clinics will be set up and scheduled and what the two agencies hope to learn from the assessment.

The meeting will take place November 27th at the Performing Arts Center at Northview High School. The school is located at 4451 Hunsberger Ave NE. Grand Rapids, MI. 495025.

Presentations will begin at 6:30PM. Doors will open at 6:00PM.

In case of inclement weather stay tuned to local media for cancellation updates.



KCHD leader testifies in Senate subcommittee field summit

On Tuesday, November 13, U.S. Senator Gary Peters held a Senate subcommittee field summit titled "Local, State and Federal Response to PFAS Contamination in Michigan." Adam London, Administrative Health Officer, Kent County Health Department, spoke at the hearing regarding the need for a national strategy to confront this environmental and health issue. Specifically, he urged Sen. Peters and his colleagues to establish federal drinking water standards for PFAS contamination and to appropriate additional resources to support local efforts in the monitoring the ongoing crisis, cleaning up contaminated sites and preventing further harm to our residents.

Sen. Peters summarized four key findings that emerged from the expert testimony:

- A federal drinking water standard must be established.
- Reliable and transparent data is lacking but necessary to fully understand and address the crisis.
- Research is needed for alternatives or substances in lieu of PFAS.
- Additional resources need to be allocated to local communities.



KCHD Administrative Health Officer, Adam London testifies. Photo Courtesy: mLive

Resources

Michigan PFAS Response Page

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>

Wolverine Worldwide

HouseStreet@wwwinc.com

(616) 866-5627

For information regarding possible health effects of PFAS and PFOA

[The Kent County Health Department](#)

616-632-7100

KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov

[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#)

1-800-648-6942

Northern Kent County PFAS Investigation Website

<https://www.accesskent.com/Health/PFAS/default.htm>