
From: Wells, Eden (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 4:20 PM
To: Andy Leavitt;Base Camp Email;Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, M.D.;Dykema, Linda D. (DHHS);Eisner, Jennifer (DHHS);Kay Doerr;Kirk Smith;Lasher, Geralyn (DHHS);Laura Caravallah;Laura Carravallah;Laura Sullivan;Lawrence Reynolds;Marc Edwards;Mona Hanna-Attisha;Peter Levine;Valacak, Mark;Lasher, Geralyn (DHHS);Hertel, Elizabeth (DHHS);Eisner, Jennifer (DHHS)
Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

Good afternoon, Andy ,

This is a public health surveillance report to show the tracking of blood lead testing in Flint. This reflects increased screening and testing that is occurring in the face of increased public health and healthcare provider and researcher responses, including Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Dr Edwards, Reynolds, etc.

As in many public health surveillance systems, surveillance reports may serve different functions. This one is to simply track the progress of testing and proportions of EBLs over the coming year (as you know, with seasonality, I am quite interested in Q3's each year to assess impact of lead programs, and will not be falsely reassured by Q4 and Q1 data points).

I would hope that you realize that surveillance reports, as this one will be, are regularly developed and this will be updated on a weekly to bi-weekly basis through the coming months (years?). T

The issues of spatial clustering and associations with lead lines, etc have already begun to be ascertained by our colleagues at Hurely and WSU, and I hope that those can continue.

From: Andy Leavitt <aleavitt@senatedems.org>
 Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 4:15 PM
 To: Base Camp Email; Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, M.D.; Dykema, Linda D. (DHHS); Eisner, Jennifer (DHHS); Kay Doerr; Kirk Smith; Lasher, Geralyn (DHHS); Laura Caravallah; Laura Carravallah; Laura Sullivan; Lawrence Reynolds; Marc Edwards; Mona Hanna-Attisha; Peter Levine; Valacak, Mark; Wells, Eden (DHHS)
 Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

Dr. Wells,

What is the goal of releasing this data? Especially as it comes on the heels of Dr. Edwards finding that the water is not safe, yet.

In my humble opinion, it continues to show the state is telling a story that is not reflective of the reality that residents are living with. Throughout this process, we have discussed repairing the trust relationship between the government and the residents of the City of Flint needs and I believe this only further erodes that trust. I also believe that the community very much needs high-level data. They have responded with remarkable understanding to both Drs. Edwards and Hana-Attisha so I hope you follow their pattern and share the most meaningful data. To start that means not lumping 17-7-year-olds with infants and recognizing lead has a half-life.

What is bound to happen is the media will ask experts about this and the experts will highlight discrepancies in the rationale and data and the community is back to square one knowing that the people charged with getting this right still can't quite do it.

Thanks,

Andy

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 4:08 PM Andy Leavitt <aleavitt@senatedems.org> wrote:

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 3:40 PM Wells, Eden (DHHS) <WellsE3@michigan.gov> wrote:

Hi Dr. Reynolds,

I just got done with an email with Mona---

This is a general public report that is high level--not a technical report, and was not meant to represent a technical report. This is general information--of course our surveillance program is tracking by zip, Medicaid, locality, etc.

We can discuss further what type of reporting may be useful to a technical audience---as long as not identifiable (some zips have to be suppressed) I don't see why this can't be done (probably not every two weeks like this public one would be)

Warm Regards,

Eden

Eden V. Wells, MD, MPH, FACPM
Chief Medical Executive
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Lawrence Reynolds <lrey52@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 3:25 PM
To: Wells, Eden (DHHS); Kirk Smith; Mona Hanna-Attisha; Peter Levine; Laura Caravallah; Kay Doerr; Laura Sullivan; Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, M.D.; Laura Carravallah; Marc Edwards; Valacak, Mark; Andy Leavitt; Base Camp Email

Subject: Fwd: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families This is a good start but maybe lacking context . Would GIS software identify clusters ? I am disappointed to see, at this moment , thatDr. Edward's study and Dr. Mona's study which have more granular reporting are given no credence. Is there a reason ?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kirk Smith <ksmith@flint.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 3:01 PM
Subject: Fwd: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families
To: "lrey52@gmail.com" <lrey52@gmail.com>, "MHanna1@hurleymc.com" <MHanna1@hurleymc.com>, "plevine@gcms.org" <plevine@gcms.org>, "lsulliva@kettering.edu" <lsulliva@kettering.edu>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Date: December 3, 2015 at 2:32:05 PM EST
To: <ksmith@flint.org>
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families
Reply-To: <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112 MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families LANSING, Mich. Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since October 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This marks the first summary report on lead testing called for in the states action plan related to health concerns about Flint's water infrastructure.

Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources, said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach these families. We will remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education efforts. Information comes from tests administered citywide to 1,361 children and adults since October 1. Tests showed that 21 of 969 children age 17 or younger and 9 of 392 adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The report covers test results reported to MDHHS since the state action plan was put in place Oct. 2. It includes the number of tests and number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter, and captures both capillary and venous blood tests that have been reported to MDHHS since the beginning of October. People who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Five micrograms per deciliter is the level that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers elevated and triggers health care professional follow up with families.

The full report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/flintwater and will be updated as more data becomes available. When reviewing historical trend data, the risk of lead exposure is highest during the third quarter of each year July through September. Seasonal variation is the result of a number of factors including increased exposure to lead in dust and soil in the summer months.

In the third quarter of 2010, 8.3 percent of Flint children 6 and under showed elevated blood lead levels. The figure gradually decreased to 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2013. During the same months in 2014, the figure increased to 7.5 percent and decreased to 6.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015.

Last month, MDHHS collaborated with the county health department and local partners to distribute educational resources and informational letters to Flint parents regarding lead testing. The state is providing funding for GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level has been detected. During these follow-up visits, nurses coordinate with environmental health investigators to meet with families in their homes to identify lead exposures, address questions and provide water filters. People can be exposed to lead from paint, soil, plumbing and other sources. MDHHS continues to provide free water filters and replacement cartridges to Flint residents at four locations, including the MDHHS Flint offices and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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Flint Blood Lead Level Summary Report December.pdf Flint EBL Data Press Release.pdf

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Lawrence Reynolds