

From: [Miller, Corinne \(DCH\)](#)
To: [Robinson, Mikelle \(DCH\)](#)
Cc: [Dykema, Linda D. \(DCH\)](#); [Moran, Susan \(DCH\)](#)
Subject: Re: Flint Water FAQ Document
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 7:06:15 PM

Thanks for the update.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 23, 2015, at 5:04 PM, Robinson, Mikelle (DCH) <RobinsonM18@michigan.gov> wrote:

Hi Corinne and Linda,

Geralyn and Elizabeth requested a call with DEQ today in order to brief Nick and respond to some legislative inquiries. Below are my notes from the call that I sent to brief Sue and Mark as well as a Q & A document that DEQ developed and is currently being vetted by the Gov's office. Just wanted to be sure to keep you in the loop on this.

The DEQ PIO (Brad Wurfel) gave a long summary about the Flint water issue. He said bottom line is that the water itself is safe but they have an old water treatment plant and old cast iron pipes that haven't been upgraded in more than 40 years. 15,000 homes have old connections with varying levels of lead. Flint is not in violation of the lead standards however they could optimize the water supply by adding phosphate. Flint is also working on a meaningful optimization plan that will be completed sometime next year. He said that DEQ briefed the Mayor and some legislators on Monday on the situation. **He said Flint's water supply is not an imminent public health problem but a public confidence problem due to the many groups getting involved and controversial reports/media coverage on it.**

Some data from a local group of Peds is showing an uptick in blood lead levels which seems to contradict the data that CLPP collects. I've asked Rashmi to follow-up with Nancy P on a) the issue of the lead testing that a group of pediatricians did in Flint? b) messaging about lead, where it is found in the environment c) a brief explanation in writing that explains the results from the blood lead tests that Nancy's program has access to. I found the charts a bit hard to read/interpret. d) availability of any local programs that might be relevant, and e) anything else that might be useful for us to share with Genesee CHD. I'll also check with Linda D. on this. *(Linda, any thoughts on what might be useful?)*

DEQ developed a Q & A document that is being reviewed by the Gov's office and they will share with us. They will post this on their website after it is approved. DEQ would like the local health department to get involved in the messaging about what can be done such as running the water before using or get a filtration system. **Mark or I will need to follow-up with H.O. Valacak once we have some suggested talking points and information that can be provided to the public.**

The city owns only the first couple of feet of pipes in connections with homes, the rest is privately owned by the homeowner therefore it would be their expense to replace.

The longer water sits in lead pipes, the higher the lead readings. DEQ's testing protocol produces consistent results across the state and matches the EPA's protocol. There are other areas of the state with the same problem. He estimated it would take \$60 M to replace the city's infrastructure. The city has request \$30 M from the state to help with the situation. The state told them to check with Congress. But we are calling on EPA to assist along with our Congressional delegation.

Brad said they are hoping to have their director submit an op ed to the Flint paper (and perhaps have Nick co-sign) with a message such as lead is a serious issue and there are actions that can be taken to minimize exposure. He wants to coordinate our messaging to align. He will circle back with Geralyn on this. Also, they will be reviewing the various water test results and will look at Flint's water treatment protocols. He cautioned that they are receiving FOIA requests every day.

Let me know if you have questions.

Mikelle