
From: Henry, James <jhenry@gchd.us>
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 3:57 PM
To: Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Public Health Emergency Declaration
Attachments: public health emergency announcement 10-1-15.pdf

From: Sandlin, Mary
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2015 2:33 PM
To: GCHD-Everyone
Subject: Public Health Emergency Declaration

Mary E. Sandlin
Clerical Coordinator
Genesee County Health Department
630 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 4
Flint, MI 48502-1540
(810) 257-3812 FAX: (810) 257-3147
msandlin@gchd.us



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Genesee County Board of Commissioners

1101 BEACH STREET, ROOM 312 FLINT, MICHIGAN 48602

TELEPHONE: (810) 257-3020

FAX: (810) 257-3003

October 1, 2015

Public Health Emergency Declaration for People Using the Flint City Water Supply with the Flint River as the Source

The County is issuing an Emergency Advisory recommending that people not drink the water coming from the City of Flint using the Flint River as the water source unless:

It has been tested to assure it does not contain elevated levels of lead.

It is being filtered through a National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) approved filter certified to remove lead that meets ANSI standard 53.

Findings reported in the Detroit Free Press September 30, 2015 indicate that Governor Snyder has publically acknowledged that Flint's water supply "appears" to have problems. Snyder has conceded that "it appears that (water) lead levels could be higher or have increased," and that there are "probably things that weren't fully understood when the switch was made." This is in direct contrast to previous reports from the State that downplayed the severity of the situation and conflicted with local data released by researchers at Hurley Medical Center.

Young children are most vulnerable to lead's effects, because prior to age six, their brain and central nervous system are still forming and easily susceptible to damage. For an adult to suffer significant health effects, exposure to lead would have to be sustained and more intense. Most adults who are affected by lead have been exposed in an occupational setting, such as working as a house painter or in a battery recycling plant.

Pregnant women are at special risk because the lead they absorb crosses the placenta and enters the fetus.

It's important to remember that there is no known safe level of lead in a human body. Experts now use a reference level of 5 micrograms per deciliter to identify children with blood lead levels that are much higher than most children's levels. This new level is based on the U.S. population of children ages 1-5 years who are in the highest 2.5% of children when tested for lead in their blood.

Lead in water can contribute to a child's blood lead level. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, who regulates municipal water supplies, has assured us that the water leaving the Flint Water Plant meets all Federal and State requirements. The City of Flint has a documented problem with lead in its drinking water due to service and household lines that may contain lead or lead solder which can leach lead because of the corrosivity of the water since changing to the Flint River as the source supply. Generally, those who are most vulnerable