

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Information Request and Documentation
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 6:56:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[FOIA Request Flint Water.doc](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)

FYI. I think the word document is the only real attachment.

From: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 7:35 AM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: Fwd: Information Request and Documentation

I am out today and will return tomorrow. Having trouble getting the attachment to open on my phone...but since it appears to be a FOIA regarding Legionella, I felt it is prudent to get this message to you. I will be available tomorrow to discuss or compile any info that we have.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Henry, James" <jhenry@gchd.us>
Date: March 10, 2015 at 6:40:17 PM EDT
To: Howard Croft <hcroft@cityofflint.com>, "Mike Prysby (DEQ)" <prysbym@michigan.gov>, Elizabeth Murphy <emurphy@cityofflint.com>, "Natasha Henderson" <nhenderson@cityofflint.com>, Jerry Ambrose <gambrose49@gmail.com>, Dayne Walling <dwalling@cityofflint.com>
Cc: "Valacak, Mark" <MVALACAK@gchd.us>, "Cupal, Suzanne" <scupal@gchd.us>, "Hasan, Shurooq" <shasan@gchd.us>, "Childs, Bonnie" <BCHILDS@gchd.us>, "Hallwood, Dawn" <dhallwood@gchd.us>, "Johnson, M.D., Gary" <GJOHNSON@gchd.us>
Subject: Information Request and Documentation

Hello everyone,

The Genesee County Health Department has made several written and verbal requests for specific information since October, 2014, including a Freedom of Information Act Request on January 27, 2015. The information still has not been received and the city's lack of cooperation continues to prevent my office from performing our responsibilities.

The Genesee County Health Department has the responsibility to conduct illness investigations and consider all potential sources, this is not optional. In 2014, Genesee County experienced a significant increase of confirmed Legionella illnesses relative to previous years. Legionella can be a deadly, waterborne disease that typically affects the respiratory system.

The increase of the illnesses closely corresponds with the timeframe of the switch to Flint River water. The majority of the cases reside or have an association with the city. Also, McLaren Hospital identified and mitigated Legionella in their water system. This is rather glaring information and it needs to be looked into now, prior to the warmer summer months when Legionella is at its peak and we are potentially faced with a crisis.

This situation has been explicitly explained to MDEQ and many of the city's officials. I want to make sure, in writing that there are no misunderstandings regarding this significant and urgent public health issue. The Trihalomethane issues "pale in comparison" to the potential public health risks of Legionella.

I am submitting the attached FOIA request again and requesting that the legal obligations of the request are met. If the information is not available, please let me know. In the past, I have requested to meet with the water plant staff and MDEQ regarding Legionella concerns. I did not receive a response from the water plant staff and MDEQ declined. I think it is in the best interest for all stakeholders that we meet and discuss the issues.

Respectfully,

Jim

Jim Henry
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