

Message

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Sent: 11/19/2015 6:24:48 PM
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Subject: Flint blood level data
Attachments: Flint EBL Data Press Release DM.docx

Good evening, MDHHS friends,

Here are suggested changes to the press release. I think it's vitally important to have our "people first" approach, and be very up front about the results. I also think it's important to show up high what we will do with this data. Please consider the changes. I also think it's worth a conversation about whether we want to release this on a Friday morning. This is a challenging situation to be sure, but I think these results are fairly encouraging considering some of the heated rhetoric on this issue.

Thank you,

Dave

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MDHHS releases October data outlining blood lead levels in Flint

Results show 24 of 963 people tested had elevated levels

LANSING, Mich. – Blood lead level testing results released today revealed that 24 of 963 adults and children tested in Flint in October had elevated levels, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

MDHHS is working closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach out to families testing with higher levels and help them reduce their exposure to lead sources.

Information was gathered from tests administered citywide to 963 children and adults between October 1 and October 30. Eighteen people age 17 or younger had elevated blood lead levels. Six adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The report is intended to inform residents about blood lead level testing efforts in Flint and provide cumulative total numbers.

“Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources,” said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive with the MDHHS. “We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with county health department to reach these families. We will update these numbers on a regular basis and remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education.”

The data in the report include the total number of tests conducted and the total number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter, and captures both capillary and venous blood tests. People who have had multiple tests are counted only once. The full report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/flintwater and will be updated as more data becomes available.

The testing is part of the state’s action plan to address health concerns related to Flint’s water infrastructure.

Last month, MDHHS collaborated with the county health department and local partners to distribute educational resources and informational letter to Flint parents regarding lead testing. GCHD nursing staff are conducting direct outreach to families when an elevated blood lead level has been detected, serving as an important resources by addressing questions and concerns, providing information, and meeting them in their home environment.

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 on the [MDHHS YouTube channel](#). For additional updates on Flint water including updates on blood lead levels and testing results, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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