

Kent County Health Department Reports Progress in Establishing PFAS Health Study

The Kent County Health Department (KCHD), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are working together to characterize people's exposure to per and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances as it relates to the ongoing groundwater contamination issues in northern Kent County.

The goal of this assessment is to characterize exposure levels for people whose private wells have been shown to have detectable levels of PFAS in northern Kent County.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a Lifetime Health Advisory for two PFAS found in drinking water: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) combined. Within the proposed study area there are more than 100 drinking water wells with over 70 ppt PFOA and PFOS, some as high as 58,000 ppt. Currently, no other area in Michigan has as many wells exceeding the advisory level nor are any test results as high.

"We believe that we should learn as much as possible about what happened and if our residents were harmed," said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer at KCHD. "Sharing their data with the CDC and ATSDR may significantly enhance our collective knowledge about the health effects of PFAS exposure."

"The partnership between Kent County, the State of Michigan, and the ATSDR on this exposure assessment is a tremendous step forward for Michigan residents, as well as the overall science around PFAS," said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive with MDHHS. "Michigan's PFAS response is a top priority in the state and we're proud to push forward on an effort that will greatly inform discussions regarding PFAS exposure and its health impacts."

The team will work until early summer to design a questionnaire. Final study protocols should be established and ready for review by late summer. Implementation of the assessment should begin by mid fall.



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Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

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DEPARTMENT**

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For information regarding possible health effects of PFAS and PFOA

[The Kent County Health Department](#)

616-632-7100

KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov

[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#)

1-800-648-6942

For information about the status of the investigation and water sampling

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Assistance Center via their online form [HERE](#)

or call 800-662-9278