



# News Update



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
*Caring today for a healthy tomorrow*

March 2, 2018

## Update on Northern Kent County PFAS Investigation



**KCHD Health Officer Appointed to Task Force**  
**Lead Investigation**  
**New Video**

### **Kent County Health’s Administrative Health Officer Appointed to State PFAS Task Force**

Adam London, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), attended the first meeting of a subcommittee that serves the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART). London was appointed to the local health department committee. He will serve as a representative of Kent County and will provide decades of professional local public health expertise to MPART.

Snyder announced the formation of the PFAS task force in November of 2017. MPART has representatives from ten state departments who will work in coordination with local and federal officials.

At the request of KCHD and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have joined the investigation. The EPA is providing counsel and quality assurance to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) as MDEQ continues its role as the lead agency in the investigation. The CDC is providing guidance and counsel to MDHHS and KCHD.

Snyder says the MPART task force, headed by retired Michigan Chief Deputy Attorney General, Carol Issacs, was formed, “to safeguard Michiganders from this emerging contaminant.”

Meeting updates will be featured in this newsletter.

### **Reports of Lead in Residential Wells Investigated by KCHD.**

The health department has recently heard concerns from families who, after finding PFAS in their drinking water, found high levels of lead in their water as well. KCHD has been looking into these concerns. In some cases, KCHD has identified other risk factors for lead in the plumbing and/or well construction. Resamples of the source water from some homes has also found lead levels much lower than what was found in previous tests. KCHD is also reviewing our own data about the rates of children with elevated blood levels. These data seem to indicate that the rate of children with elevated blood levels in the PFAS contamination area is significantly less than the overall rate for Kent County. KCHD will continue to study this question and we will share details as we learn them.

### **KCHD Adjusts Notification Procedure to “Non-Detect” Homes**

KCHD has changed the notification policy to residents whose wells show a non-detection of PFAS after testing. KCHD will now be notifying the non-detect households by mail rather than by phone. The change will allow KCHD staff to more quickly notify residents whose wells gave tested above 70 PPT.

Residents whose wells test between non-detect and 70 PPT will continue to be contacted by the MDHHS.

Results of well tests can take up to eight weeks.

### **KCHD Environmental Health Division Head Answers Your Questions in New Video**

In the latest video produced by KCHD to address your PFAS questions, Sara Simmonds, the Director of KCHD’s Environmental Health Division, talks about the questions she most frequently hears from residents. You can click on this link to see all of the KCHD videos addressing PFAS.

<https://www.accesskent.com/Health/PFAS/faq.htm>



### **Resources**

#### **Wolverine Worldwide**

[HouseStreet@wwwinc.com](mailto:HouseStreet@wwwinc.com)  
(616) 866-5627

#### **For information regarding possible health effects of PFAS and PFOA**

**The Kent County Health Department**  
616-632-7100  
[KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov](mailto: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

#### **For House Street specific site information**

**Rose and Westra, a Division of GZA**  
Mark Westra/Lori Powers  
<mailto:House-Street@gza.com>  
(616) 258-7234

#### **For information about the Plainfield municipal water system**

**Plainfield Water Department**  
(616) 363-9660

#### **For questions about tax/property values**

**Plainfield Township Assessing Department**  
Jeff Miller (616) 726-8880

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<https://www.facebook.com/kentcountyhealth/>