Community Meeting

PEATT Pilot Project

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Testing in the
Warrington, Warminster and Horsham areas

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• CDC/ATSDR has developed a toolkit to conduct biomonitoring (blood testing) for PFAS
• Pennsylvania was chosen for the pilot program to evaluate the toolkit
• Feedback from this project-
  ‣ Will be used to improve the toolkit
  ‣ Will support a larger, national study
Project Information

- We are testing residents exposed through drinking water
- Households will be selected randomly
- We can only test **500** people at most
- People must have lived in the affected area prior to **July 1, 2016**
Evaluation of PFAS testing toolkit

- PFAS TESTING
- All of us have PFAS in our bodies
- PFAS are everywhere
  - Air
  - Soil
  - Food & water - main source of exposure
  - Consumer products
- **Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**
  - Human-made chemicals
  - Used in protective surfaces and things that have water-repellant coatings
PFAS – in Drinking Water

• PFAS levels in your drinking water
• 1,440 ppt (PFOS+PFOA), the highest level detected in the area, was about 21 times higher than EPA health advisory guideline (70ppt)
• People in the area have been exposed for a long time- nearly 50 years
• Wide range of exposure-
  • Some wells had no levels of PFAS
  • Some wells much higher than national guideline
  • Range (PFOS+PFOA): 80-1440 ppt
PFAS – in Blood

- Nationally, the average level of PFAS in a person’s blood:
  - PFOA 3.07 ng/mL
  - PFOS 9.32 ng/mL

Reference: NHANES (2009-2010)
PFAS Health Risks

• Studies are inconsistent in determining health effects from PFAS exposure
• Most studies involve animals
• Human population studies show evidence of association between PFAS and:
  - Liver damage
  - High cholesterol
  - Uric acid
  - Cancer
PFAS Exposure

• Many industrial uses- photo imaging, metal plating, military aviation training
• Firefighter training – PFAS in the foam
• Former Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC)-Warminster Twp. Bucks County
  - Firefighter training activities using foams containing PFAS
• Site drains into tributaries of
  - Little Neshaminy Creek
  - Pennypack Creek

Background

- PFAS used in military and firefighter training activities

Horsham

NAWC

http://ujspaceainfo.com/2014/02/horsham-ags-pennsylvania/

Safety Town- public domain
• NAWC
• 2013: PFAS detected in ground water
• 2014: all contaminated public wells taken out of service
  Private well residents given bottled water
• 2015: PFAS found in 93 out of 100 private wells within a 1-3 mile radius
Background

- Horsham Air Guard Station
  - Firefighter training activities using Foams containing PFAS

- Contamination in two public water systems
  - 2014 - Five public wells taken out of service
  - 2016 - EPA released new advisory level, additional wells taken out of service, private well owners given bottled water
What’s next?

• We mailed an eligibility information form to 350 randomly selected households

• Letter

• Eligibility form
  - How many in each household
  - How many lived there prior to July 1, 2016
  - How many willing to participate

• Complete the eligibility form and return it to the department
What’s next?...

- We select 500 people (adults and children) who meet the eligibility criteria and are willing to participate
- Send MORE information
  - Invitation letter and consent form
  - Questionnaires for adults and children
  - Information on how to make an appointment to have blood drawn
  - Information sheet on PFAS
What to do?

• Fill out the consent form (one per person)
• Fill out the questionnaires (one per person)
• Return them to the department
What to do?

• Call a clinic to make an appointment:
  ◆ Bucks County Health Department
  ◆ Willow Grove Health Center
    ◆ Wear loose, comfortable clothing
    ◆ Drink water before appointment to be well-hydrated
    ◆ No need to fast
Laboratory Analysis

• Serum samples will be analyzed by the New York State Health Department Laboratory

• Results will be communicated to the department
Communication of Test Results

- The department will communicate the results to the individuals.
- The department will help to interpret the results and compare them to the community and to the nation.
PFAS Exposure Assessment Technical Tools Pilot Program

Cancer Data Review (1985-2013)

Addendum 1 to Cancer Data Review (1985-2013)

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Fact Sheet

Family Tree of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
Contact Information

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at env.health.concern@pa.gov or by phone at 717-787-3350 (ask for Susan Schrack Wood)
• Dr. Sharon Watkins
• Dr. Anil Nair
• Dr. Farhad Ahmed
• Dr. Marhal Ma
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Questions?