



**KALAMAZOO  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
Health & Community Services Department



***Media Release Contacts:***

**Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department**

Christina Anthony, Public Information Officer

(269) 373-5271

Email: [cqanth@kalcounty.com](mailto:cqanth@kalcounty.com)

**City of Kalamazoo**

James J. Baker, PE, Director of Public Services

(269) 337-8768

Email: [bakerj@kalamazoocity.org](mailto:bakerj@kalamazoocity.org)

**Kalamazoo River No Contact Advisory Issued**  
**Paterson St. Bridge in City of Kalamazoo North to D Ave Bridge in Cooper**  
**Township**

**KALAMAZOO, Mich.** – At approximately 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, 2024, Pfizer notified the City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services that an estimated 1,057 gallons of [methylene chloride](#) were released within the process area of the manufacturing facility located on Portage Road. An unknown amount of the colorless liquid was discharged into a dedicated sanitary sewer serving Pfizer, which then flows to the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant (KWRP) for treatment. At this time, the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, in cooperation with the City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services, are advising all persons to avoid contact with the Kalamazoo River from Paterson Street Bridge in the city of Kalamazoo to the D Ave Avenue Bridge in Cooper Township.

“We decided to issue a **No Contact Advisory** for the stretch of river impacted by the methylene chloride release as a precautionary measure,” Health Officer Jim Rutherford said. “This advisory will remain in effect until further investigation and sampling indicates that there is no risk to public health.”

While the KWRP is designed and permitted to treat up to 291 gallons per day of methylene chloride, the total volume of methylene chloride that reached the plant following Tuesday’s release is still unknown. Sampling of the Kalamazoo River within the identified area is ongoing and will continue as long as necessary until results can be analyzed and the advisory lifted.

As required by law, KWRP personnel notified the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) at the Kalamazoo District Office, as well as the Kalamazoo Health & Community Services Department's Environmental Health Division, regarding the methylene chloride release into the sanitary sewer system.

###