



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Expanding Investigation Area for PFAS in Residential Water Wells in Richland Township

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department in unison with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will expand the investigation area for Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in residential water wells in Richland Township.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), are part of a group of chemicals used globally during the past century in manufacturing, firefighting and thousands of common household and other consumer products.

Beginning the end of this week, residents within the expanded investigation area will receive a letter in the mail indicating the desire of MDEQ to test their residential water well and the date of sampling. If a resident is not home on the date of sampling, a door hanger will be left with a number that the resident needs to call.

The MDEQ and their contractor, (AECOM), are authorized to collect samples from resident's private water wells. These individuals can be identified by their respective badges. Anyone representing themselves from the MDEQ or AECOM should have their badge visible at all times, and residents should ask to see it.

During this time, residents may still use their private water well. If tested, residents will be notified of the results and the next steps by staff from the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. Test results are expected to be received within one month of sampling.

"The MDEQ is expanding the investigation area to understand better the direction of flow of the PFAS that was found in earlier tests within the initial investigation area," said Jim Rutherford, Health Officer for the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. "The only way we can be sure that PFAS is not impacting your private water well supply, if you are within the expanded investigation area in Richland Township, is to sample it."

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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The investigation into PFAS within Richland Township started in April 2018, when the initial sample that indicated PFAS with levels higher than the lifetime health advisory of 70 ppt came from an effluent sample associated with the groundwater pumping system at the former Production Plated Plastics facility on E. D Avenue. The residential well sampling commenced after that. The initial investigation area was set, and twenty-nine (29) residents within that area had their private residential water wells tested. Some residents tested received results above the lifetime health advisory of 70 ppt and were placed on bottled water immediately. A town hall was held on July 18 for Richland Township residents. During the town hall, it was discussed that the investigation area might expand in the future.

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