



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
August 23, 2018

Matt Johnson, Public Information Officer
pio@kalcounty.com
269-373-5271

*For media inquiries, contact the State Emergency Operations Center's Public Information Officer at MSP-SEOCPIO@michigan.gov.

August 23, 2018: Daily Update on the Parchment Water Response

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will provide a news release each day at 4:00 p.m. for the community with the latest information, and report on the daily activities surrounding the Parchment Water Response.

Municipal Water Update

The Do Not Drink order remains in place for Parchment and Cooper Township homes and businesses connected to the municipal water system. The top priority remains protecting the public.

The most recent tests for PFOA and PFOS have resulted between 6 and 8 ppt, 176 times lower than the contamination level of 1410 ppt found in July. With the immediate problem addressed, a methodical, science- and engineering-based approach has been followed to make sure the flushing of the City of Parchment system and connection to the City of Kalamazoo system is achieved without creating unintended consequences. The City of Kalamazoo's water meets the stringent requirements of the Safe Drinking Water act and is undergoing extensive testing to ensure it is compatible with the City of Parchment system. Both systems are being monitored to improve water chemistry and confirm it is trending in the right direction.

The flushing of the City of Parchment system and the hookup to the City of Kalamazoo water supply created an expected stir-up of particulates in the Parchment water system. The Parchment water distribution system has gone well beyond just testing for PFAS compounds and includes parameters such as lead, copper, pH, alkalinity, chlorine, sulfate, iron, manganese, disinfection by-products, residual chlorine, residual phosphate and others. Gov. Rick Snyder instituted new Lead and Copper regulations at the state level that goes beyond the federal requirements for protecting public health. Part of these new regulations resulted in an additional battery of tests necessary before the Do Not Drink order can be lifted.

The eventual lifting of the drinking water advisory for the municipal system will involve consultation and agreement between local officials, the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the EPA.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Parchment Water Hotline: 269.373.5346

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Residential Water Wells

To date, the DEQ has sampled 182 residential wells and 3 irrigation wells. Results have been received for 128 residential wells and 1 irrigation well. The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department has contacted those individuals about their results.

Water Distribution

The Water Distribution Center is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Haven Reformed Church. Residents can pick up additional cases of water due to the reduction of days open. Residents are asked to verify their address when they pick-up their water supply. On-site recycling is available for residents to return used water bottles.

Parchment Water Hotline: 269-373-5346

The Parchment Water Hotline is available for residents to call Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, August 22, the call center received 30 calls at an average of just over 3 calls per hour.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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