



"Your Local
Health Department"

Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency

570 N. Marshall Road
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561
Fax (517) 278-2923

20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395
Fax (517) 437-0166

1110 Hill Street
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161
Fax (269) 273-2452

www.bhsj.org

A Local Leaders Guide to Responding to Questions About Drinking Water

Purpose: The safety of drinking water has been front page news in recent years. The Flint Water Crisis drew new attention to this issue and now PFAS is being identified in locations throughout Michigan. But lead and PFAS are just two potential contaminants in water. The purpose of this document is to help local leaders answer questions and provide referrals for citizen concerns and complaints.

Where to direct citizens with questions about PFAS and Drinking Water: Your Local Health Department's Environmental Health (EH) staff are available to discuss drinking water, drinking water testing, and PFAS and other contaminants. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have set-up one phone extension that connects you with several EH staff members so that you only have to remember the one extension; it is ext. 0402#. You can dial the phone number for any one of our offices, dial this extension and get someone to talk to about drinking water at our office.

The State of Michigan Environmental Assistance Center can be contacted at 800-662-9278. Representatives may be reached to assist with your questions Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Regarding drinking water testing: When testing drinking water, you must know what information you need or want. Each water test is unique and every test has a fee associated with it. The most common drinking water test is for coliform bacteria and is available widely in our three counties. Other tests, including that for PFAS, can be very expensive and no local lab exists to run the test at this time. The EH staff at Your Local Health Department are ready to respond to questions about drinking water testing and how to accomplish it.

Links: You may be interested in learning more about drinking water safety and PFAS. The following are reputable links providing information on drinking water and testing.

- Your Local Health Department: www.bhsj.org
- PFAS specific: <https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86704---,00.html>
- DEQ Drinking Water Site: https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3675---,00.html

Local presentations: Your local health department is available and ready to attend government meetings to discuss this and other issues. If you'd like to set this up, please contact Rebecca Burns, Health Officer (517)933-3040 or Paul Andriacchi, Environmental Health Director (269)858-1025.