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Perfluorochemical (PFC) Contamination of the Drinking Water at the Pease Tradeport

Key Points and Recommendations:

- NH DHHS is advising pediatric healthcare providers to residents of the Pease Tradeport region that their patients and their parents/guardians may soon seek advice regarding a blood testing program.
- NH DHHS is offering this blood testing program as a public service because people who have consumed contaminated water from the Pease Tradeport may want to know what their blood levels of this chemical contaminant are. These contaminants are the specific PFCs called perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).
- This testing is offered but not recommended because there is no health benefit from testing.
- This program is not a research study, and cannot give any information about whether these PFCs have caused, or will cause, any health problems.
- The protocol for this program was originally designed with an ethical priority to avoid possibly inflicting the discomfort and emotional distress of a blood draw on children, because there is no health benefit from testing. However, parents/guardians have clearly expressed their commitment to testing their children. As a requirement for enrollment, NH DHHS has asked that parents/guardians get confirmation from their child's healthcare provider that there are no known medical risks for their child to undergo peripheral phlebotomy (e.g., bleeding diatheses, underlying anemia, previous extreme distress during phlebotomy, etc.). This encounter with the parents/guardians may also represent an opportunity for you to provide counseling regarding the risks and benefits of testing.
- Further details to aid your counseling are available at the links below. Important issues include that:
 - Human studies have not consistently shown any health detriment from PFC exposure;
 - There is no way to remove PFCs from blood; and,
 - This blood draw must only be by peripheral (arm) venous phlebotomy and will require a minimum of 2 mL of blood.
 - When this initial testing program is completed, additional public health actions may be recommended, but none are confirmed at this time.

- For any additional questions, please call the NH DHHS public inquiry line at 603-271-9461, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional Information:

- Investigation into Contaminant Found in Pease Tradeport Water System @ <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/investigation-pease.htm>
- Perfluorochemicals (PFCs) @ http://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFCs_FactSheet.html

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Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: None

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