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May 18, 2015

Weekly Pease Perfluorochemical (PFC) Testing Program Update

Community Engagement:

- The City of Portsmouth has established a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to represent the affected Pease Tradeport community. The CAB provides feedback and recommendations to the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) about the PFC blood testing program.
- DHHS made a presentation about the PFC blood testing program during the CAB's May 14 meeting.
- NH DHHS has a twitter account where we will send out periodic updates along with this weekly update. The NH DHHS Public Information Twitter account is: @NHDHHSPIO.

Testing Process:

- As of Friday, May 15, 2015, a total of 548 persons have called to inquire about blood testing for PFCs.
- Information packets with questionnaires and consent forms have been mailed to a total of 547 individuals; this includes 406 adults and 137 children. DHHS has received back 333 questionnaires and consent forms as of Friday May 15, 2015.
- Portsmouth Hospital phlebotomy facilities:
 - **Adults** with DHHS issued requisition forms and labels should go to the Portsmouth Regional Hospital blood draw facility on the Pease Tradeport (located at 26 Manchester Square, Portsmouth, NH) to get their blood drawn, Monday–Friday, 7:00 am to 1:00 pm (no appointment necessary).
 - **Children** with DHHS issued requisition forms and labels should go to the Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Jackson Gray Medical Building (located at 330 Borthwick Avenue, 1st floor Suite 112, Portsmouth, NH) to get their blood drawn, Monday–Friday, 7:00 am to 1:00 pm (no appointment necessary).
- As of Friday May 15, 2015, the NH DHHS lab has received 204 blood specimens. We are in the process of shipping the blood specimens to the testing labs.
- Given the high demand for testing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is unable to perform all blood specimen testing at this time; however NH DHHS is discussing further with the CDC.
- NH DHHS is working on finalizing a contract with a second reference laboratory to ensure we can accommodate all requests for testing.
- All testing requests must be received by May 29, 2015 to ensure timely processing and reporting.
- The final date an individual can have their blood drawn for this testing program is June 12, 2015.
- Initial reporting of individual results is expected to begin by June 15th.

Noteworthy Events and Meetings:

- The next Community Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 2nd in Portsmouth. Further information on date, time, and location can be found on the City of Portsmouth website: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2015/index.htm>
- Please visit the DHHS website more information and other updates at: <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/investigation-pease.htm>

Any persons with questions about the testing program can call the DHHS Public Inquiry line Monday – Friday, 8:00 am–4:00 pm, at 603-271-9461.