



Governor's Task Force on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation

September 14th, 2016

4:00 – 6:00

Portsmouth City Council Chambers

Municipal Complex

1 Junkins Ave.,

Portsmouth, NH

Attendees: Representative Tom Sherman (Chair), Representative David Borden, Dr. Benjamin Chan (DHHS), Senator Martha Fuller-Clark, Representative Renny Cushing, Representative Pamela Gordon, Kelly Halldorson (Community Representative), Drew Hoffman (NHDES), Amy Kennedy (Governor's Office), Kim McNamara (Portsmouth Health Officer), Mike Magnant (Rye Town Administrator), Mindi Messmer (Community Representative), Jim Murphy (EPA), Representative Laura Pantelakos, Patricia Tilley (DHHS), Mike Wimsatt (NHDES)

1. RMS Overview

State Epidemiologist Dr. Ben Chan gave an overview of RMS in the United States and in New Hampshire, highlighting the similar rates in NH and the US and the higher prevalence among children than adults. See attached PowerPoint presentation.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Provide update on the suspected RMS cluster in Georgia.

2. Cluster Investigation Update/DHHS Protocol

Whitney Hammond of DHHS gave an overview of [the DHHS cancer cluster protocol for responding to suspected clusters](#) . This is the third step of the DHHS protocol – feasibility testing to generate a potential hypothesis about an exposure in common between cases. DHHS is reviewing the draft RMS investigation protocol with the Community Advisory Group next week. The questionnaire will be tested over the next week to ensure that it is easily understood.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Provide link to DHHS protocol
- Share final RMS protocol with the Task Force
- Share final questionnaire with the Task Force

3. Coakley Update from EPA and NHDES

Jim Murphy from EPA shared that the 5-year site review of Coakley Landfill should be available by September 30, 2016. Using current and historical baseline data, the site review will provide an overall review of the site, describe if the existing remedies continue to provide protection and identify any emerging contaminants. Issues will be identified and recommendations will be made. Drew Hoffman of NHDES [reviewed testing of wells in and around Coakley](#)  for 1,4 Dioxane and PFCs. At present, testing



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found no residential wells with PFC levels exceeding the NH/EPA standard. NHDES is working to gain access to land that is privately owned for further testing. See attached PowerPoint presentation.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mindi Messmer will chair a subcommittee focused on further review of Coakley with representatives from DES and EPA.

4. Next Meeting of the Governor's Task Force on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation:

- October 12th, 3:00-5:00 pm (location TBD)