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Individual Perfluorochemical (PFC) Blood Test Results Release

Key Points and Recommendations:

- Results of the first 100 PFC blood tests from participants in the Pease Tradeport PFC Testing Program will be released this week.
- Participants may consult their healthcare providers to understand what the PFC levels mean for their health, and providers should be prepared by reviewing our recommendations below and the FAQs found on our website.
- DHHS will host a community meeting to answer questions on Wednesday June 17th from 6-9 p.m. on the Pease Tradeport.
- DHHS has established an inquiry line managed by the Northern New England Poison Center staff to help answer questions participants may have about their individual test results.
- DHHS will host a healthcare provider educational webinar about PFCs, scheduled on Monday, June 22, 2015, 12-1pm (details regarding participation are attached).

Background Information:

Perfluorochemicals (PFCs) are man-made chemicals used for decades to manufacture household and commercial products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Many PFCs are now commonly found in our environment, can easily contaminate ground water, and do not break down easily, leading to bioaccumulation. In April 2014, the three wells supplying drinking water to the Pease Tradeport were tested for perfluorochemicals (PFCs) for the first time because these chemicals were newly classified as emerging contaminants of concern.

On May 12, 2014, the U.S. Air Force notified the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) that water samples collected from one of the three wells (Haven well) showed that the level of one PFC called perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) was above the provisional health advisory (PHA) level set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Another PFC, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), was also detected but at a level just below the PHA. Several other PFCs for which there are no PHA levels established were also detected.

Current Situation:

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has conducted a blood testing program for people who consumed water from the Pease Tradeport water system and wanted to know their blood level of PFCs. The testing program concluded on June 12, 2015, and individual blood test results will be released over the next several weeks as they become available. The first 100 participant results will be released this week. DHHS is hosting a public meeting on the evening of Wednesday June 17th to discuss the testing process and provide a summary of the first 100 test results. DHHS has also established an inquiry line with the Northern New England Poison Center which individuals can call after they receive results if they have questions or concerns. Healthcare providers should be aware that they may receive phone calls from patients who were tested and want your opinion about what their blood level implies for their health.

For this reason, NH DHHS is providing healthcare providers the “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) document about PFCs, including potential health effects. These FAQs will be available on June 17th coincident with release of the first test results to individuals, and will be available on the NH DHHS website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/investigation-pease.htm>.

As detailed in the FAQs, a variety of health effects have been studied, but the summary of the literature does not demonstrate a conclusive causal relationship between PFC exposure and any specific health outcome. No one knows what a specific blood PFC level may mean for a person’s health. There is also no guidance about any specific medical testing or screening that should be performed as a result of PFC exposure. Healthcare providers should continue to perform routine diagnostic or screening tests as medically indicated based on a thorough history and physical examination, and not based on PFC blood levels. DHHS will host a healthcare provider webinar on Monday, June 22, from 12-1 p.m. to highlight some of the findings and limitations in the PFC literature.

Healthcare providers may also be asked about additional blood PFC testing from those who were tested, who want to be re-tested, or from persons who have not yet been tested. There is no routine blood test that providers can order to test a patient for PFCs. There are only a few specialized laboratories in the U.S. and Canada capable to test for PFCs. NH DHHS does not currently recommend testing or re-testing persons to detect PFC levels. Any questions about PFC testing can be directed to the NH DHHS Public Inquiry line at 603-271-9461.

For specific background and additional information please visit the NH DHHS website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/investigation-pease.htm>

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).

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From: Benjamin Chan, MD, MPH – State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: PFC Webinar Invitation



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June 16, 2015

CORRECTED LINK:

Division of Public Health Services' Webinar

**“The Pease Tradeport PFC Drinking Water Contamination and
What PFC Exposure Means for Your Patients' Health.”**

on

Monday, June 22, 2015, 12:00 PM ET:

Register Now!

Panelists:

Main presentation by:

Dr. Benjamin Chan MD, MPH NH State Epidemiologist

With contributions from:

Dr. Alan Woolf, MD, MPH Director of Environmental Medicine,
Boston Children's Hospital

Dr. Chan will present about the Perfluorochemical (PFC) drinking water contamination on the Pease Tradeport and the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Service's response with a testing program that tested exposed individuals' blood levels of nine different PFCs. The presentation will focus on what we know about the health impact of PFCs to help primary care providers respond to their patients' concerns with education and support. Dr. Chan and Dr. Woolf will be available for questions at the end of the presentation.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5864103796946576386>

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