

## **Responding to the Flint Water Crisis: Federal, State, County and City Partners Update Week of May 13, 2016**

*Federal agencies continue to work with state and local officials to help the city recover from the water crisis.*

*FLUSH FOR FLINT! Residents are encouraged to flush their pipes by running cold water at the highest flow from their bathtubs and kitchen faucets for 5 minutes for 14 days in a row during the month of May. The state will cover the cost and residents will receive a credit on their water bill.*

### **For Flint Residents' Questions**

For questions about Flint's drinking water: Email [flintwater@epa.gov](mailto:flintwater@epa.gov), or call EPA's free hotline 810-434-5122.

To get water tested for free: Email [flintwater@cityofflint.com](mailto:flintwater@cityofflint.com) or call the Flint Water Plant: 810-787-6537. Pick up free water testing kits, bottled water, filters, and filter replacement cartridges at fire station 3 and at community points of distribution (PODs): Genesee County Land Bank/Ross Plaza, 2320 W. Pierson; Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 1401 E. Stewart Ave.; West Court Street Church of God, 2920 W. Court Street; Dort Federal Event Center, 3501 Lapeer Road; and Genesee County Land Bank/Easton Bowling Alley, 3001 Dort Highway. PODs are planned in Wards 2, 4, 5, 8 and a replacement POD is planned in Ward 9. POD hours: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

To get your blood tested or ask about skin rashes, call your doctor's office.

For deliveries to people who are homebound or have functional needs call 2-1-1. If your cell phone won't allow calls to 2-1-1 call this toll-free number: 1-844-875-9211. For help installing a faucet filter call 2-1-1. If you're worried about the smell of your water, call 810-787-6537. For water test results visit [www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater). You can also sign up for daily information updates on that web site.

Crisis Counseling and Support: call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746. Small Business Recovery Center: Call 1-800-659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

### **Current Water Recommendations for People in Flint**

- ✓ DO RUN cold water at the highest flow from faucets for 5 minutes every day to flush pipes.
- ✓ DO USE an NSF-certified water filter rated to remove lead from your drinking water.
- ✓ EVERYONE CAN wash hands, bathe, and shower with unfiltered water.
- ✓ DO clean aerators in your faucets once a week until Flint's water system has recovered.
- ✓ DO carefully follow the instructions that came with your water filter. Replace the filter when the light turns red.
- X DO NOT drink unfiltered water.
- X DO NOT cook or brush teeth with unfiltered water.
- X DO NOT allow babies and children to drink bathwater.

### **Current Health Recommendations for People in Flint**

- **For babies under 1 year old:** use bottled water for water, food and formula.
- **For pregnant or breastfeeding women and children under 6 years old:** bottled water is the safest choice.
- Have your child's blood lead level tested and ask about the results.
- At home, serve foods that are high in calcium, vitamin C and iron, especially fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Connect your kids with programs and activities that stimulate their brains, like summer reading programs.

## Federal Actions to Strengthen Community Health

- HHS extended Medicaid coverage and services to approximately 15,000 additional children and pregnant women, and expanded services available to 30,000 current Medicaid beneficiaries in the Flint area. On May 4, the Michigan legislature approved the state's portion of the funding needed for this coverage. Beginning on Monday, May 9, eligible residents could enroll in Medicaid. Eligible residents have income of 400% or less of the federal poverty level (in other words, \$47,520 a year for one person or \$97,200 for a family of four). You may be eligible if you are a pregnant woman or a child under age 21 who lived, worked, or received childcare or education at an address that was served by the Flint water system at any time from April 2014. The fastest way to apply is online at [www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges). Residents also can apply by calling the Michigan Health Care Help Line, 1-855-789-5610 (TTY 1-866-501-5656 for people with hearing or speech disabilities).
- In addition to medical benefits, pregnant women and children impacted by the Flint water system who already have Medicaid, or who gain Medicaid coverage, can access new targeted case management services to help them connect with medical, educational, social and other services they may need. Residents eligible of this expanded coverage are notified by letter. If you are receiving the additional coverage, you can receive targeted case management services by contacting your doctor or calling Genesee Health System at 810-257-3777.
- USDA [announced](#) a measure to expand the access to the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children program to the greater Flint area. Now, an additional 23,000 children who receive free or reduced price meals during the school year will be eligible to receive a \$30 benefit package each summer month. These students will also receive information on nutritious foods that may help mitigate lead absorption. This brings the total number of children who could benefit to about 39,000. The program provides a debit-type card that can be used for nutritious food purchases at authorized stores.
- The HHS Health Resources and Services Administration provided \$1 million in Health Infrastructure Investment Program funding to help Genesee Health System increase patient capacity and provide high quality primary care services. The construction grant is one of 10 awarded in Michigan totaling \$10 million and part of the more than \$260 million in funding to 290 health centers in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In March, the Hamilton Community Health Network and Genesee Health System each received \$250,000 in emergency supplemental funding from HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration to hire new staff and provide additional services.
- With the \$3.5 million HHS provided to expand Head Start services for Flint residents, the school district expanded the length of the day for the current full-day center-based classrooms from seven hours to seven-and-a-half-hours, providing additional instruction time for 998 children. All 51 of the new center-based openings are filled and these new classes began March 28. All 24 additional openings for the expanded home-based services are now filled; home-based instruction began March 28.

## Federal Actions to Improve Access to Safe Water

- To date, FEMA has provided more than 10 million liters of water, over 50,000 water and pitcher filters, and more than 243,000 filter replacement cartridges.
- EPA has conducted tests on more than 5,100 samples of water collected from more than 750 Flint homes and properties. EPA expanded the current water [sampling program](#) in Flint homes and other points in the distribution system for metals including lead and copper, as well as organic compounds, disinfection byproducts, including trihalomethanes (THM), and other constituents. This expanded effort includes scientific study of hot and cold water in bathrooms of some homes. The data is shared with Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the rash investigation.

## **Actions to Strengthen Flint's Economy**

- The U.S. Department of Labor is providing a National Dislocated Worker Grant for up to [\\$15 million](#) to assist with humanitarian and recovery efforts resulting from the contaminated water crisis in Flint. Of the \$15 million, an initial \$7.5 million is being provided for temporary employment of eligible individuals to assist with the recovery work, as well as offer these individuals career and training services to help them find permanent work.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) continues to offer low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans to Flint, Michigan and surrounding area small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture businesses and private nonprofit organizations affected by the contaminated public water supply disaster that began on Oct. 1, 2015.
- Technical assistance to Flint through HUD's Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) program has been extended through 2016. This program focuses on economic development in distressed communities.