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**MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data**

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its newest summary report on lead testing in Flint. According to preliminary data, 39 of 1,836 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

“As testing continues, our focus remains on helping families reduce all potential exposures to lead,” said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. “We are working closely with the Genesee County Health Department to provide information and offer tools in the community, and encourage families to explore the resources that are available to them.”

Both capillary and venous blood tests are included in the report, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS is working closely with local partners to offer resources and distribute important lead testing and prevention information. Additional state funding has allowed for Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected. These families can also choose to have the nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources.

To support these efforts, the state is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities on enhanced screening and testing. In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS has recommended blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are still available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit [www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater). The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its [YouTube channel](#). For this and other updates, visit [www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater).

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