

SUMMARY OF FLINT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

On January 5, 2016, Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency in Genesee County as a result of elevated lead levels in the drinking water in Flint, Michigan. This declaration allowed the State of Michigan the ability to marshal and coordinate resources to provide a host of services to the city of Flint (City). In response to the Governor's declaration, the Michigan State Police (MSP) activated the State Emergency Operations Center and began a citywide, door-to-door campaign to distribute commodities, such as bottled water, water filters, filter cartridges, and water testing kits. In addition, residents were provided informational literature that detailed services and informed residents on protective measures that they could take for themselves and their families.

In response to the Flint water crisis, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and other state and local partners have combined staff efforts and financial resources to provide technical and human services to the City. Michigan has appropriated \$234 million in funding that has supported water quality monitoring; in-home investigations to identify service line type; determining causes for high lead levels in drinking water and addressing plumbing issues; blood lead level testing of children; in-home evaluation of lead exposures; removing old fixtures in schools and other facilities; flushing (in schools, homes, and throughout the distribution system); providing filters and water bottles; and increasing the number of children with access to proper medical and nutritional services. Below is a summary of just some of the efforts of the various agencies.

A five-prong approach to testing: In October 2015 the MDEQ, working with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the City, and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (DLARA), began implementing the following:

- **Residential testing.** Water testing is done on a weekly basis in the City's distribution system. In addition, testing is conducted for any resident in the City who dropped off a sample at one of several identified locations in the City. Water test results greater than 100 parts per billion (ppb) result in an in-home visit by MDEQ and MDHHS staff. The MDEQ evaluates fixtures, installs filters, and discusses the need to clean aerators; and the MDHHS evaluates health issues and offers advice on other lead exposures in the home. Since February 4, 2016, these home visits occur when test results are greater than 100 ppb and are conducted within 7 days; and when results are greater than 150 ppb, they are conducted within 48 hours.

- **School testing.** All schools, daycares, health care facilities, and foster care facilities were sampled by the MDEQ. The DLARA replaced 1,375 fixtures during Phase I of a fixture replacement program; Phase II is currently underway and expected to be complete in June 2016, replacing fixtures that were not currently in use, but may be in the future. At each facility, MDEQ staff coordinated flushing and conducted before and after fixture replacement sampling. As of June 16, 2016, the MDEQ and DLARA have completed this work in 65 percent of the facilities in the City.
- **Elevated blood lead level testing.** When MDHHS identifies residents with elevated blood lead levels, the residents are offered a free evaluation of their home to identify potential exposure pathways. Water testing is also conducted in the home. The MDHHS is working to increase the rates of lead testing.
- **Food service establishments.** The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) sent staff to collect samples from food service establishments to see if the water used in soft drink dispensers, ice machines, coffee machines, and other similar equipment contains high lead levels. The MDEQ analyzed the samples and sent reports to the MDARD for any needed follow up.
- **Sentinel sampling.** Between February and April 2016, over 650 residents participated in a biweekly water sampling program to determine trends in lead concentration in the drinking water. Participants were chosen from 1,900 residents who were canvassed for participation. MDEQ staff coordinated the drop-off and pickup of the samples, conducted analyses, and reported results. Monthly extended sentinel sampling involving 197 residents began in May 2016 and will run through February 2017.

To date, and since October 1, 2015, the MDEQ has analyzed **34,805** water samples, posted results at www.michigan.gov/flintwater, and sent results to residents.

Technical and financial support: The MDEQ has provided technical support to the Flint Water Treatment Plant staff, including expediting permits and providing in-plant advice and oversight. The MDEQ also worked with the Michigan Department of Treasury on residential water bill relief, the total appropriation for which is \$42.7 million through December 31, 2016. The MDEQ also oversaw contracts with: an advertising agency that promoted flushing; an engineering firm to conduct a pilot service line removal project; and a firm that evaluated and reported on the condition of the treatment plant. Staff are currently overseeing grants and contracts with Dr. Marc Edwards to provide technical support, with the City to remove service lines, and with a contractor to conduct hydraulic modeling. In addition, staff conducted in-home inspections at 3,734 homes in the City in search of lead service lines.

MDHHS: The MDHHS is working with the Genesee County Health Department, the Genesee Health System, and other local partners to implement [programs](#) focused on crisis counseling, the Child Health Care Access program, the Nurse Family Partnership program, and the Michigan Child Care Collaborative program. Grants or contracts are also in place for food inspections, child elevated lead case management, nutrition education, and epidemiologists (who track childhood lead levels).

The MDHHS also expanded Medicaid eligibility up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level for pregnant women and children under age 21. Targeted case management is offered to those receiving this benefit.

Outreach: Numerous brochures, flyers, and door hangers were developed by MDEQ staff in coordination with the MDHHS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other stakeholders. The MDHHS also created publications on lead exposure and *Legionella*. Many of these documents were translated into Spanish, some into other languages as well.

Community events: Since January 2016, the MDHHS has coordinated events per the request of community members at various locations in the City. These events involve MDHHS staff and often involve representatives from the MDEQ, EPA, MSP, and Governor's office. Since January and through May 31, 2016, the MDHHS conducted 119 of these events.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE): The MDE is continuing to work with the local school districts and agencies to increase access to and consumption of nutritious meals and snacks. This includes encouraging schools to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision to provide universal free breakfast, partner with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to provide salad bars in schools (15 of 20 schools now have salad bars), provide a daily snack to children residing in the affected area, and increase Meet Up and Eat Up summer feeding sites in the greater Flint area.

The MDE is also working with Flint Community Schools and Genesee Intermediate School District to provide children through age four with additional quality early learning options. Ongoing community outreach activities promote programming and assist parents with enrolling and participating in Early On and the Great Start Readiness Program.

In addition, with supplemental funding, nine additional nurses were hired to serve in Flint elementary schools. The MDE, the MDHHS, and Flint Community Schools have worked together to establish coordination among similar programming efforts to avoid duplication and increase the impact and outreach among students and families.

Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC): The MEDC has increased training and job placement for structurally unemployed City residents, created new manufacturing and technology jobs, and assisted families with housing. The MEDC [announced in February 2016](#) a large restoration project at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Flint, which is expected to create 82 full-time jobs as well as the creation of up to 150 new high technology jobs. Staff have also applied for U.S. blight remediation funds and secured U.S. Department of Labor training/employment funds. Community residents were employed as part of the sentinel water sampling program, and one community member now serves as the receptionist at the MDEQ's Flint Field Office.

Tracking of Activities: Tracking of actions by all agencies involved is ongoing via a tracking program established by the Michigan National Guard. Tasks include those in the Governor's 75-point plan. Actions are reported weekly. Outcomes have primarily focused internally to this point; however, the Michigan National Guard intends to launch a Web site to share accomplishments with the public in July 2016.

Ongoing coordination: Implementation of actions in support of the City will continue to be coordinated through the Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee, interagency meetings led by the Michigan National Guard, and Mission Flint.