

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KCHD and MDHHS issue Health Advisory regarding PFAS Foam on Rogue River

Grand Rapids – Out of an abundance of caution, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are recommending that people using the Rogue River avoid swallowing foam floating on the water.

This advisory is being issued after the MDHHS and KCHD received test results from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on June 4, 2018. Surface water samples were taken from the Rogue River and its tributary Rum Creek in October of 2017. A sample of foam from the Rogue River was collected just below the Rockford Dam in April of 2018 as part of DEQ's investigation.

Because of the amounts of PFAS found in that foam, MDHHS and KCHD have concluded that swallowing the foam may pose a human health risk. Therefore, the two agencies are advising people to take precautions against swallowing the foam while using the river recreationally.

Current science suggests PFAS do not easily enter through the skin and would not pose a risk to human health.

You can review the reports from the samples by [clicking this link](#).

Residents who have health questions for MDHHS can call (800) 648-6742.

Residents who have questions about the environmental investigation can contact MDEQ at (800) 662-9278.

Reporters who have questions about the test results can contact MDEQ (517) 284-9278.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.