

TO: Health care providers in the Bennington and Rutland areas

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PFOA Contamination in Bennington and North Bennington Information on Blood Testing

The Vermont Department of Health will be holding PFOA blood draw clinics at the Bennington District Office. There is no cost to participants for the blood draw or laboratory analysis. The clinics are by appointment only. People must be eligible based on the criteria below, and must complete a questionnaire before the clinic. The clinics will be Friday, April 29; Saturday, April 30; Wednesday, May 4; Thursday, May 5; Wednesday, May 11; and Thursday, May 12. People must register for the clinics by April 30.

Eligibility – A person is eligible for the blood test if:

1. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation tested the well of the home in Bennington or North Bennington where the person lives now, or where the person lived any time in the past eight years. – and/or –
2. A person worked or lived at the former Chemfab/Saint-Gobain site at 940/1030 Water Street in North Bennington, or a person works or lives there now.

Pregnant women and parents who would like their children tested have been advised to consult their health care provider or their children's health care providers before participating to make sure there are no medical reasons why they should not have their blood drawn.

PFOA is found in the blood of most Americans. If an individual's drinking water is contaminated with PFOA, the amount of PFOA in their blood is probably higher than most Americans. The Health Department will ask individuals for permission to share the PFOA blood results with their health care provider.

PFOA levels in serum are related to increased serum lipid levels, uric acid levels, and liver enzymes. These changes may or may not be clinically relevant. Providers may want to consider a thyroid panel, liver panel, lipid panel and a uric acid analysis for patients who have drinking water contaminated with PFOA.

Providers should be aware that additional health outcomes are reported in scientific studies of PFOA. These studies do not prove causality of specific health effects due to PFOA exposure, and some outcomes may not be clinically relevant.

Screening for these outcomes should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Testing should be considered in the event of symptoms.

Studies have correlated PFOA levels in serum with:

- Developmental effects: pregnancy-induced hypertension and decreased birth weight
- Immune effects: decreased antibody titer following vaccination, ulcerative colitis
- Thyroid disease
- Kidney and testicular cancer

If you have a patient that you think is experiencing health effects due to PFOA exposure, please call us at 1-800-439-8550.

For more information:

You can find additional information about PFOA on the Health Department's website:
<http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/pfoa.aspx>

For detailed summaries of the toxicology and epidemiology studies on PFOA and other perfluoroalkyl chemicals, check the ATSDR Toxicological Profile:
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

For information on exposure and health studies conducted on a large exposed population, visit the C8 studies:
<http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/>

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.