

**TO:** Health Care Providers in Bennington and Rutland Counties

**FROM:** Sarah Vose, PhD, State Toxicologist

## **PFOA Information & Testing Resources**

### **Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry Website**

The Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR), which is a part of Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, recently added to their website resources for health care providers who want to know more about perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and related chemicals. PFOA and PFOS are both per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS).

The website includes guidance to help clinicians patient concerns and questions about levels of PFAS in blood. The PFAS clinician guidance is attached to this health advisory. ATSDR also offers Continuing Medical Education for clinicians who wish to learn more about PFAS and earn CME credits.

ATSDR website: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/>

### **Vermont Community Meeting**

The Health Department will hold a community meeting to discuss its analysis of the blood test results and exposure assessments. The meeting will take place on Thursday, January 26, 2017 5:00 p.m. at Bennington College Tischman Lecture Hall.

Also presenting will be two invited speakers – Tarah Somers, RN, MSN/MPH from ATSDR/CDC and Alan Woolf, MD, a pediatrician affiliated with Boston Children’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and the New England Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit.

### **Blood testing resources**

The Health Department will hold an additional blood testing clinic in Spring 2017 for eligible residents who have not yet had their blood tested. People who wish to have their blood tested repeatedly are not eligible for this clinic.

We do not recommend that people who drank water containing PFOA have repeated blood tests. Once the exposure is stopped, the PFOA level in the body will slowly decline. The half life is roughly three years, so it may take decades for some people to return to background levels of PFOA in blood. In addition, there is currently no established PFOA blood level that will predict a health effect or guide treatment.

The Health Department has identified three laboratories that will test an individual's blood for PFOA. In these cases, the individual is responsible for paying the cost of analysis, or working with their private insurance company to discuss the cost.

Vista Analytical Laboratory  
TEL 916-673-1520  
<http://www.vista-analytical.com/>

AXYS  
TEL 888-373-0881  
[www.axysanalytical.com/services/](http://www.axysanalytical.com/services/)

NMS Laboratory  
TEL 866-522-2206  
[www.nmslabs.com](http://www.nmslabs.com)

Note: NMS minimum detection level is higher than 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for men (around 4 µg/L).

**For more information** – If you would like more information or specific technical assistance regarding PFOA exposures, contact the Health Department to be connected to additional resources.

The Vermont Department of Health has a website where you can find additional information and status updates:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/response/environmental/pfoa-drinking-water-2016>

**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.