

# ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## Office Administration

(269) 673-5411

## Bioterrorism Preparedness

(269) 673-5411

## Personal Health

(269) 673-5411



## Communicable Disease

(269) 673-5411

## Environmental Health

(269) 673-5415

## Resource Recovery

(269) 673-5415

## Immediate Release

September 2, 2018

## The Allegan County Health Department reports on: *Hotline to address community questions and concerns*

In response to questions received regarding yesterday's press release on the Otsego area water investigation, we are providing clarification:

Delivery of information to the community and transparency are priorities in this investigation. At this time, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), or Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) lack sufficient information to determine if a hazard exists. Out of an abundance of caution, we have asked the 14 residents of the Otsego area, private water supply testing project with detects of 2 dioxins to drink and cook with an alternative water source until the rest of the dioxins are received from the lab. Once those results are received from the laboratory, the results will be reviewed by the agencies to determine the next steps in the public health investigation. Results will be communicated to the private well owners and to the community in general at a public meeting. The agencies anticipate we should have the rest of the dioxin testing levels back by September 07, 2018. Here is a link to more information regarding dioxin. <https://www.epa.gov/dioxin/learn-about-dioxin>.

Private water supply (wells) locations/addresses are considered personally identifying information and are unable to be provided to the public. The agencies will bring a summary of the results of the sampling plan and next steps in this ongoing investigation to the community in another township hall later this month.

If the water has been tested for a particular address, the resident/owner will be sent a letter with results and additional information once complete results for all classes of contaminants have been received for that address. The MDHHS and ACHD will contact the residents/owners by phone or person, if there are immediate actions needed.

The Plainwell Public Safety Building has served as a meeting location for officials and is closer to the testing area; however, the specific properties with a detectable level of dioxin referenced in yesterday's release are not in the City of Plainwell. Plainwell's support and use of the facility is greatly appreciated.

To expedite community questions in a timely and transparent manner, the Allegan County Health Department has developed a communication plan. In an effort to provide coordinated communication the ACHD will be updating a FAQ (frequently asked questions) document by 3:00 pm on a daily basis. If you have questions, please call the Otsego Area Water Quality Investigation Hotline phone number 269-686-4546 during the hours of 8 am - 8pm. The FAQ document link is posted at [www.allegancounty.org](http://www.allegancounty.org).

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