

Additional Info WELL WATER TESTING

The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) support reducing known or suspected environmental exposures to lead and/or arsenic. Based on the preliminary drinking water results available from EPA this week, ATSDR and PADOH recommend following a protocol at the Former Mohr Orchard site that includes:

Sampling for total lead at the drinking water tap and using EPA's site-specific screening number of 11 ppb total lead. This advice would ensure the evaluation of actual levels of ingestion exposures. Homes with initial elevated lead results in their private wells should be resampled, and additional private wells in the site area should be identified for sampling.

ATSDR and PADOH support EPA's decision to provide bottled or other alternate drinking water to affected residents for cooking, drinking, and baby-formula preparation where the results are above the site specific lead screening level until the situation is further evaluated and/or remedied. Residents can continue to safely use their well water for other household uses such as bathing, showering, and washing clothes and dishes. For an extra precautionary step, families with young children or pregnant women may wish to do a final rinse of their dishwasher-cleaned dishes or baby bottles with their alternative water supply.

Consistent with statewide childhood blood lead screening guidelines, ATSDR and PADOH recommend families contact their family physicians regarding obtaining a blood lead test for children five years old and younger. Young children are more vulnerable to lead poisoning, and affected children may not show any obvious symptoms. This advice would be especially recommended in homes where the drinking water is above 11 ppb total lead, there is evidence of peeling paint indoors, or there are other environmental exposures to lead.

ATSDR and PADOH will continue to stay actively involved in reviewing additional information for this site as it becomes available.

ATSDR and PADOH are available to consult with concerned residents and/or their health professionals about their health questions.

Concerned residents may contact ATSDR Region 3 (Lora Werner, 215-814-3141 or via email at lkw9@cdc.gov), or PADOH (Dr. Mark White or Barbara Allerton, RN at 717-346-3285).