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**RE:** Flint Filter Challenge Assessment Follow Up

Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) Health Officer, Mark Valacak, noted that the Environmental Protection Agency's Flint Water Filter Challenge Assessment released yesterday was very good news, "This report demonstrates the effectiveness of the water filters in removing lead from homes using Flint water. This news is very welcome for our residents." He also noted, "not everyone using Flint water is currently using a filter and that some residents may need additional information about how to use filters properly."

GCHD and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) remind everyone using Flint water to:

- Have your water tested. It is important that you know what the lead levels are in your home. Test kits are available at POD site and the testing is free.
- Install and use a filter. It is important that you install the filter correctly. Do **not** run hot water through the filter. (Visit [www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us) or [www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater) to view videos on filter installation)
- Change the filter cartridges regularly. There is an indicator that will remind you when the cartridge needs to be replaced.

We want to make certain that all residents using Flint water are using a filter that is installed correctly. Filter cartridges need to be regularly replaced. These actions are important to make sure that the filtered water

is safe for residents. Bottled water, filters and replacement cartridges are available in the community at the point of dispensing sites (PODS). Bottled water will continue to be available to Flint residents.

“We’re encouraged to see that when filters are installed and working correctly, all residents including pregnant and nursing mothers, and children under the age of 6 can use filtered water,” said Dr. Eden Wells, Chief Medical Executive with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “Yesterday’s announcement is an important step in ensuring Flint families have access to and are properly using their filters.”

Resources are available to assist residents with installing a filter. Visit [www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us) or [www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater) to view videos or find fact sheets in multiple languages. Genesee County Action Resource Department can also assist residents at 810-789-3746.

Several other actions can help improve the quality of Flint water. Residents can help by continuing to flush water through their home systems. Running water helps the water system “heal.” Running water flushes out small particles and allows a protective coating to develop in the pipes to prevent the release of lead. Running water through the system also ensures that chlorine for disinfecting water is distributed throughout the system. Chlorine kills harmful bacteria that could cause health issues.

The Flint Water Filter Assessment addressed specific questions about lead. For those residents concerned about Legionnaires’ disease, please review the frequently asked questions document located on [www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us) or [www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater).

Bottled water will continue to be available to Flint residents. Any members of vulnerable populations need to carefully review that they are using their water filters correctly before switching from drinking bottled water to filtered water. Anyone who has concerns about the quality of their water may also choose to continue to use bottled water until they can arrange to have their water tested. For additional information please visit [www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us) or [www.michigan.gov/flintwater](http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater).

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