

TESTING CONTINUES

When will soil sampling begin?

- On March 2, 2010, the Department of Environmental Protection sampling teams began sampling soils at most of the homes where water samples were collected during the February 12-14, 2010 sampling event. Having both water and soil samples will allow DEP to evaluate environmental data from homes where cases of pediatric brain cancer exist as well as additional nearby homes which are serving as a control group.

Where and when did the Department of Health test for gamma radiation?

- DOH conducted gamma radiation testing in 21 homes.
- The testing was done both inside and outside the homes.
- Special attention was paid to areas that children might play and water treatment systems.

What were the results of the gamma radiation testing?

- No tests indicated that gamma radiation was a health risk, either inside or outside the homes. Only background levels were detected.
- As expected, homes with water treatment units measured slightly higher than background radiation when the radiation detection unit was touching the water treatment unit.
- This slight increase in radiation was reduced to background levels when measured one foot away from the water treatment unit, and does not pose a health risk to residents or pets.

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Email Updates
at
www.pbchd.com*

FAQS

What can I do to protect my child while you are testing?

- Each of us has a unique health profile.
- If you have specific health questions about yourself or your child, discuss them with your primary health care provider.
- Report any unusual signs or symptoms such as severe headaches, changes in vision, lack of balance, changes in speech patterns, or any other symptoms that concern you to your health care provider for evaluation.

I want my water tested now.

- There are several qualified commercial testing services available in your area. Consult your commercial testing service for pricing.
- We recommend that samples be taken from the kitchen tap to represent the water actually consumed.
- We recommend you test for gross alpha (as a measure of radionuclides) and semi-volatiles (525 EPA method – to scan for organic chemicals including some pesticides) and heavy metals including arsenic and lead.
- DOH has a list of qualified laboratories available online at www.pbchd.com. If you'd like, we'd be happy to go over the commercial lab results, explain any findings, and answer questions you may have about your water report.

How can I keep up-to-date on The Acreage investigation?

- We are opening a resident's resource office in the Acreage.
- Watch for regular updates sent to you by email.
- We are updating the Acreage webpage at www.pbchd.com as new information becomes available.

Acreage Neighborhood Information Center Now Open

in the Publix Shopping Center
corner of Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd.
and Orange Blvd.
Hours: 10 AM to 6 PM, Tuesday - Saturday

Phone: 561-798-7082

I can't afford health insurance for my children.

- There are several programs that can help you.
- KidCare (www.floridakidcare.org) and Medicaid (www.dcf.state.fl.us/ess/customer.shtml) may be able to provide you with low cost health insurance for your child.
- Contact the Florida Department of Children and Families ([561-837-5078](tel:561-837-5078)) or visit the resident's service center for more information.



Are you ever going to find a cause for the increase in pediatric brain cancers in The Acreage?

- We cannot guarantee finding a specific cause, but we are going to do our best.
- We have asked for help from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and several national research centers that specialize in brain cancer.
- Our goal is to provide you with accurate and timely information so you can protect yourself and your family.

The Acreage

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

March, 2010



Palm Beach County

TESTING CONTINUES

Where and when did DEP's initial water sampling take place?

- During the week of August 4-8, 2009, DEP collected samples from about 50 residential drinking water wells, a child care facility and the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant in a 36 square mile area.
- The well testing divided the 36 square mile area into six zones. Samples were collected at five to 10 separate locations within each zone to achieve wide coverage that is proportional to population density.
- On August 26 and 27, after reviewing the preliminary findings of the sampling, DEP conducted additional water quality sampling. The additional samples included all five water supply wells and two treated water locations at the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant (only one of the five water supply wells was sampled in the preliminary round), 10 private residential drinking water wells and nearby canals in the area. With this additional sampling, DEP had tested all wells providing raw (pre-treated) water to the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant as well as the finished treated water that is distributed to customers. The water treatment plant is in compliance with DEP's regulatory requirements.
- The additional August 26 and 27, testing focused on radionuclides, specifically radium 226/228, due to a minor exceedance found in a sample of pre-treated water from the first supply well at the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant.
- On October 1, 2009, results for the sampling were released and can be viewed in **The Acreage Sampling Report**.

Where and when did DEP's second round of water sampling take place?

- February 12-14, 2010, DEP collected samples from 23 homes of untreated ground water from drinking waterwells and samples from water that passed through a water treatment system or water softener, if the resident owns a treatment system. The homes included

residences where cases of pediatric brain cancer have been identified as well as a number of other nearby homes to serve as a control group.

- DEP also collected treated water from the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant and four homes as a follow-up to the first round of sampling.

What will DEP test for during the second round of water sampling?

- As before, the laboratories will analyze the water for a wide array of contaminants that are associated with industrial (metals and organic solvents) and agricultural (herbicides and pesticides) chemicals used now and in the past.
- While the tests will look for more than 200 individual chemicals, most fall into one of the following groups: petroleum, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, wood treating chemicals, metals, nutrients, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and radionuclides.

STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES PARTNER FOR THE ACREAGE INVESTIGATION

Throughout the investigation of the increase of pediatric brain cancers in The Acreage, teams from the Palm Beach County Health Department, Florida Department of Health (DOH), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are working together closely to ensure that the investigation findings are based on the latest and most reliable science available.

This partnership of environmental and health experts assures that this investigation is reviewed by a broad cross section of scientists and physicians from a wide range of health and environmental areas of expertise and specialty.

Recently, leadership of the National Institute of Health and the National Cancer Institute added their advice and counsel to the team. These prestigious national research institutions bring a new and international dimension to our investigation.