

DHD#10 AND MDHHS WARN OF PFAS IN FOAM ON BODIES OF WATER

Foam Can Contain the Hazardous Chemicals Including PFAS

July 1, 2022 – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10), along with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, recommend that residents and visitors avoid foam that can build up on bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, and streams.

Foam that forms on bodies of water can sometimes have harmful chemicals including high level of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Foam ranges in color from brown and off-white; however, foam that contains PFAS will typically be bright white, lightweight, and pile up on the shoreline, beaches, or edges of rivers.

Children exposed to PFAS only a few hours a day could be at higher risk of negative health outcomes, and higher levels of exposure to PFAS has been linked to higher cholesterol and thyroid disease in adults. Therefore, MDHHS recommends reducing your exposure and rinsing off or bathing as soon as possible after being exposed to PFAS contaminated water or foam.

For information about health advisories surrounding PFAS, please visit:

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/lakes-and-streams/foam>.

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