

OCT 28, 2016

(Note: CDC SHIGELLA CALL WITH DR LOVE)

[Laura Sullivan](#)

[October 28, 2016](#) ·

Lately, I've been reading posts that criticize Flint residents for expecting the government to take care of their health problems.

Apparently there are people among us who have already forgotten that the catastrophic destruction of Flint infrastructure and resulting contamination of drinking water from April, 2014 through October, 2015 was at the hands of state and county officials, together with city leaders who were voted out of office as a result.

The water is getting better, and filters are proving effective at removing lead, even where it exists at high levels. Experts continue to study, debate, and work hard to attend to other health impacts from the water.

Some are wrongfully discredited.

The agencies that should have been attending to this have epically failed. But hard-headed, tough-hearted researchers from Michigan universities are, I can tell you first hand, setting aside everything including their own families to dig deeply into the concerns raised by activists. I'm not saying that they're alone - I'm just commenting on my own first hand observations of meetings and conference calls in which these scientists push hard against attempts to minimize issues of importance.

But I digress.

I've been reading posts by people who complain that residents shouldn't expect the government to take care of them. Crazy as it seems, I guess some need to be reminded that the health effects that residents are experiencing aren't a result of any choice they made. The corrosion of pipes that resulted in elevated blood lead levels in citizens over a sustained period of time was ENTIRELY the responsibility of the government. Citizens have every reason to believe that present and future health problems associated with lead exposure WILL CONTINUE TO BE the responsibility of the leaders who suggested switching to the Flint River as a source, and the leaders who pressed those decisions.

Memories may fade as we're distracted by tomatoes being launched at our current city leaders. Count on me to remind those who live without the daily worry about the safety of their water supply that they live in privilege.