

VT press Conference 12/2/2016

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2016/12/eng-flintwaterresultsfourthroundtesting.html>

“Citizen-led testing shows water conditions continue to improve. Lead and iron levels in the water are decreasing, with many more homes having non-detectable levels at the tap,” Edwards said during a news conference at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. “However, residents should continue to use bottled water and lead filters until otherwise notified by the EPA or the state.”

Over the past eight months, a Shigellosis outbreak occurred in Flint. In July 2016 and at the height of the Shigellosis outbreak, the Virginia Tech team collected samples from 30 Flint residential homes. Samples did not reflect any detectable Shigella, graduate student Owen Strom, of Snoqualmie, Washington, said.

The Virginia Tech findings are supported by a recent Center for Disease Control and Prevention Shigellosis outbreak investigation in Flint, indicating that the drinking water was likely not the source of the disease. The most common way Shigellosis is contracted is from person-to-person transmission. Careful handwashing is the most important step to reduce the incidence of the disease, according to the CDC.

<http://www.michiganradio.org/post/watch-virginia-tech-officials-announce-results-most-recent-flint-water-tests>

WATCH: Virginia Tech officials announce results of most recent Flint water tests

By MARK BRUSH & EMMA WINOWIECKI • DEC 2, 2016

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• *Today's announcement takes place nearly 16 months after the initial tests of Flint's water.*
VIRGINIA TECH

Researchers from Virginia Tech are announcing the results of their fourth round of water testing in Flint today.

For many people in the city, their trust in government has been broken. They don't trust what the state, or the federal government say about the safety of their water.

The Virginia Tech researchers are more trusted. They sounded the alarm about the lead crisis in the summer of 2015. And they've been retesting as many of the homes in their original study as they can. Officials are watching what the team has to say about the safety of the water closely.

In an August press conference, Prof. Marc Edwards from Virginia Tech said, "the wind is at our back." **He indicated that the water system was recovering.**

Today, the team will address where the city's water system stands.

The live press conference begins at 10:30 a.m. EST. You can watch below:

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Researchers: Flint water improving, but stick with filters

By Ed White, Associated Press Published 1:07 p.m. ET Dec. 2, 2016 | Updated 3:38 p.m. ET Dec. 2, 2016



(Photo 11: Paul Sancya, AP)

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Water in Flint continues to improve, researchers reported Friday after finding no detectable levels of lead in 57 percent of homes during another round of tests.

Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech, a scientist who revealed Flint's alarming lead levels in 2015, said the public health crisis is nearing an end, although he firmly urged residents to continue to use filters on kitchen faucets — perhaps for as long as it takes to replace the old lines that bring water into homes.

"It's very likely folks will never be told the water is safe as long as those lead pipes are there," Edwards said during a news conference at Virginia Tech that was streamed online.

Edwards, along with state and federal authorities, has repeatedly recommended filters or bottled water. Those continue to be distributed for free to Flint's roughly 100,000 residents.