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Subject: Questions for the FAQ
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JIC team,

Just a reminder to gather your next slate of questions that need to be addressed in our FAQ so we can update that document next week. As a reminder, questions are submitted on Fridays, we get them answered by Tuesdays and then the updates to the FAQ happen on Wednesdays.

Just to get us started, here are some new ones, along with answers – feel free to tweak if you see something out of place. Some of these already are addressed in our current FAQ version, so perhaps we can just see where to plug the responses to enhance what's there.

When will we be able to identify the "hot spots" for residents for whom you promised to cover the cost of urine cadmium testing?

DEQ continues to gather monitoring data to identify other "hot spots" around the city, and it will work with OHA to determine potential health risks in those areas. Based on that information, OHA will alert community members about their risks, whether OHA recommends testing, and if so, where and how to get tested.

Local and state health officers advised people living within a half mile of the glass factories not to eat backyard produce until further notice. When will they be able to?

DEQ is gathering additional air and soil sampling data to ensure that there is no additional risk of exposure to cadmium, arsenic and chromium, as both glass companies have reported they have ceased use of these metals. That data will be ready by (DATE). If sampling demonstrates exposure risk has ended, DEQ and OHA will advise the public and recommend steps that may include steps for properly cleaning produce, or destroying it. For more information, see the OHA guide for healthy gardening: http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/HealthyNeighborhoods/Documents/OHA_Healthy_Gardening_10_2013.pdf

What are we advising people about soil testing?

OHA is not recommending soil testing at this time, but it also is not discouraging it. The agency has produced an information sheet with a list of soil testing companies. It is available at http://public.health.oregon.gov/newsadvisories/Documents/soil-labs.pdf.

I understand the agency is offering to pay for people to get their urine tested for cadmium. How many people have taken the agency up on that offer?

OHA is working on a funding plan to cover the cost of urine cadmium testing for current residents of the area whose insurance does not cover it. Patients should discuss the need and potential benefits and limitations of testing with their physicians.

Do you have any urine test results so far? What are the results? What are you doing with the results of these tests?

OHA does not yet have urine test results. OHA implemented a rule on Feb. 18 requiring reporting of all positive urine tests for cadmium in Oregon so this information can be gathered systematically. Under the plan, local public health officials would follow up on such reports to collect information from patients on such things as how long the person lived in that area, occupation, work place, school attendance, and other potential sources of cadmium exposure. With positive tests reported over the ensuing months, OHA would analyze whether expansion of the testing is appropriate. Individual test results reported to OHA for public health purposes are confidential under Oregon law, but OHA can report summary data to the public.

Now that the results are reportable, what does that allow you to learn?

The urine test for cadmium can measure cumulative cadmium exposure that occurred over the past several years. Arsenic and chromium, on the other hand, leave the body quickly, so a urine test for these two metals can only measure very recent exposure (hours to days). The tests cannot determine specific health effects. Test results of children under age 6 can be falsely

high and should be interpreted carefully with an expert.

Does the emergency rule make it mandatory for physicians to report the results of these cadmium tests?

Yes, and OHA is working with laboratories to facilitate rapid, electronic reporting of the results to public health officials.

Thanks!

Jonathan