

Media Placement Highlights

October 12-November 8, 2019

Notable media placements:

WBBM NewsRadio

"Lake County Health Officials Start Second Round of Air Testing In Gurnee, Waukegan" – October 29, 2019

<https://wbbm780.radio.com/articles/lake-county-officials-start-second-round-air-testing>

- The Lake County Health Department resumed outdoor air monitoring the week of October 21, 2019, to collect additional data on ethylene oxide (EtO) levels near the Medline Industries facility in Waukegan and Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee. The 90-day period of monitoring is funded by the IEPA.
- "Our first 30-day period of outdoor air monitoring confirmed the presence of EtO in our air, with the highest levels found at the sampling sites closest to the Medline and Vantage facilities," said Mark Pfister, Health Department Executive Director, in a statement. "The second round of air monitoring, funded by the IEPA, will provide additional data on the levels of EtO before, during, and after new controls are installed at Medline as required to meet their permit from IEPA."
- "The extended period of monitoring is really essential for our partners at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry who are going to conduct a health risk assessment with the results," stated LCHD's Hannah Goering. "We encourage our residents to look to those experts to really give us the answers that we are seeking on what the health risks are and what we need to do about it."

Chicago Tribune

"Commentary: Illinois shouldn't ban ethylene oxide, which ensures the state's supply of sterile medical products" – October 28, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-opinion-ethylene-oxide-state-legislature-20191028-ldg457swgjbejczsf7moem3hcy-story.html>

- Medline produces and sterilizes over 16,000 sterile surgical packs per day, used by 135 hospitals in Illinois. In 2018, Medline's payroll was \$34 million in Waukegan, and the company reported paying \$2 million in state and local taxes.
- According to Lara Simmons, president of Medline's Quality Division, Medline's sterilization process relies on EtO, which lawmakers may ban in Illinois, stating "The science does not support such drastic action" and that "Lake County health officials reported last year that there are no known cancer clusters near our plant."
- Medline is in the process of installing a series of new controls approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) that, according to Medline, "will abate more than 99.9% of all ethylene oxide used."

Press Releases Issued

Avoid Bats to Protect Yourself from Rabies – October 31, 2019

https://lnks.gd/2/_phpvb

Ethylene Oxide Air Monitoring Resumes in Lake County – October 29, 2019

https://lnks.gd/2/_nV6Dr

Total Media Placements

October 12 – November 8, 2019

Press Releases Sent	2
Press Release Placements	5
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	4