

Media Placement Highlights

November 9, 2019-January 3, 2020

Notable media placements:

WebMD

"Blood Tests Show Exposure to Ethylene Oxide" – December 9, 2019

<https://www.webmd.com/cancer/news/20191209/blood-tests-show-exposure-to-ethylene-oxide>

- The University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) published results from a recent study measuring levels of ethylene oxide (EtO) in Lake County residents' blood. Results indicated that residents living about a half mile away from the Medline facility in Waukegan had EtO levels about 50% higher than participants who live farther away.
- According to UIC, the testing was limited, involving blood samples from just 93 people who responded to fliers and social media posts about the project. Participants were not randomly selected, which may have introduced bias. The results have not been published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.
- Medline spokesman Jesse Greenberg said, "It should be noted that recent ambient air tests released by the Lake County Health Department show EtO levels at sites closest to Medline in Waukegan are below background levels the EPA measured in 34 different cities. Also, Medline regularly administers blood tests for Waukegan employees and has never found elevated EtO levels in 25 years."

Lake County News-Sun

"Results begin to roll in from second round of ethylene oxide testing in Lake County; higher levels of EtO detected in Gurnee" – November 26, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-lns-lake-county-eto-round-two-st-1127-20191126-vcruezz5gva2tbc6aycdjab3u-story.html>

- The Health Department posted initial results from the second phase of air monitoring in Lake County, reporting a higher concentration of EtO at one location near Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee.
- Mark Pfister was quoted from a previous news release, "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."
- Conclusions cannot yet be drawn from the data, which will be used for a health risk assessment by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). "Full analyses will take into consideration wind speed and direction, as well as other variables when looking at the testing results," said Hannah Goering, Health Department spokeswoman.
- Larry Mackey, Director of Environmental Health, added that the risk assessment is "vital to helping residents understand the health risks associated with EtO emissions in our county."

Daily Herald

“Early education experts gather to improve Lake County kindergarten readiness” – November 20, 2019

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20191120/early-education-experts-gather-to-improve-lake-county-kindergarten-readiness>

- Early education faculty, administrators and experts gathered for an event to share ideas, forge partnerships and explore starting a new group to improve birth-to-kindergarten education throughout Lake County.
- Jon Ashworth, Health Department Health Equity Coordinator, was a speaker in the panel.
- The summit aims to expand efforts which have resulted in improving kindergarten readiness in the Round Lake area to all of Lake County.

NBC5 Chicago

“2 New 'Whooping Cough' Cases Reported at Stevenson High School” – November 12, 2019

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/2-New-Whooping-Cough-Cases-Reported-at-Stevenson-High-School-564833161.html>

- Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire notified parents November 12 that new cases of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, were reported at the school, where efforts to prevent the spread of pertussis have been ongoing since September. According to the report, most Stevenson students with whooping cough had been vaccinated.
- “The Lake County Health Department urges anyone with a mild, worsening cough to see their doctor.”
- The CDC is conducting a study at Stevenson to determine if whooping cough vaccines remain effective and if otherwise healthy teenagers can transmit pertussis without showing symptoms.

Press Releases Issued

Ethylene Oxide Air Monitoring Results Received – November 26, 2019

<https://lnks.gd/2/B3R-bM>

“Rock the Ribbon” at World AIDS Day Event December 1 – November 20, 2019

<https://lnks.gd/2/zdN-p>

Prevent Flu and Stay Healthy This Holiday Season – November 21, 2019

<https://lnks.gd/2/B28h6B>

Total Media Placements

November 9, 2019 – January 3, 2020

Press Releases Sent	3
Press Release Placements	9
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	19