

MEDIA RELEASE

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RE: **Advisory to Avoid Foam on Surface Waters, Including the Flint River, Holloway Reservoir and Mott Lake**

The Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) along with the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) are advising the visitors of the Flint River, Holloway Reservoir and Mott Lake to avoid foam on the water as it may contain high amounts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This is a precautionary advisory because of the PFAS that has been found in the surface water and fish in these waterways, and also based on PFAS foam testing in other areas of Michigan.

The science is currently unclear on how readily PFAS is absorbed through the skin. The most common way people get PFAS in their bodies is through ingestion. GCHD and FRWC are advising everyone to avoid contact with foam on the water, during swimming, fishing, paddling and other recreational activities. If someone comes into contact with foam they are encouraged to wash it off with soap and water as quickly as possible, especially from the hands to avoid accidentally ingesting PFAS while eating.

Additionally, it is recommended that people not allow their dogs and other pets to come into contact with or ingest the foam. Pets can potentially swallow foam collected in their fur when grooming themselves. They should be thoroughly rinsed off with fresh water after contact with foamy water.

PFAS foam is usually bright white, whereas naturally occurring foam on water is usually discolored. More details about PFAS foam can be found at [PFAS Foam on Lakes and Streams](#).

The fish consumption advisories for these waterways are still in effect and can be found at <https://www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish>. Fish consumption signs for PFAS have been placed in several locations along the Flint River, Holloway Reservoir and Mott Lake. More information about PFAS can be found at: <https://gchd.us/pfas/> and <https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>

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