

The Honorable Richard D. Snyder  
Governor of Michigan  
111 South Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

The Federal Government is committed to supporting the State of Michigan in ensuring the people of Flint regain access to safe water and in developing its plan to focus on the community's needs moving forward. As promised, I am writing to provide you with an update on current efforts and to respond specifically to the request made by the State through the emergency operations center in Flint on January 24, 2016. The Federal Government has current and ongoing efforts in support of the vast majority of your request, and I am pleased to report that we are making substantial progress, particularly on the State's top priorities in the areas of the environment, health, human services, nutrition, and communications. The remaining items require further discussion and/or action by the State, and we are happy to pursue them in coordination with your team as detailed below.

In addition to support provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under a Presidential Emergency Declaration and by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), I have enlisted the assistance of other Federal partners, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Education (ED), and Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Federal Government has established a Unified Coordination Group in Flint consisting of approximately 70 people, including HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) subject matter experts and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers.

The overarching Federal goal is to develop, with State and local partners, a plan that the State can implement to end the crisis and help mitigate its adverse health effects. Our priorities are to help the State of Michigan to: 1) provide immediate access to safe water; 2) support long-term safety of and confidence in the water supply; 3) understand and address immediate health needs, particularly for children and pregnant women who have had lead exposure, including effective risk communication to residents of Flint and actions to address behavioral health needs of the

community; and 4) monitor and mitigate long-term effects of lead on the health of affected people.

In response to your request for support in behavioral health planning, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers are in Flint providing assistance and are working with State and local health personnel. In addition, a CDC external affairs specialist provided risk communication training for State, county, and local representatives, consistent with your request for support in developing community communications and outreach strategies. We are also making residents of Flint aware that they have access to the Disaster Distress Helpline, sponsored by the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which provides crisis counseling and support to people – including children and families in Flint – who are experiencing emotional distress related to the crisis.

To assist with the restoration of Flint's water system, EPA field sampling teams are conducting water sampling at homes with higher levels of lead for analysis and follow-up. The EPA and CDC are supporting your request for investigations into rashes reported by the Flint community through the deployment of personnel and technical assistance to State agencies. Beyond these efforts, the EPA has begun posting preliminary water quality data about chlorine levels in Flint's drinking water, as well as an interactive map of sampling results in Flint. The map includes data from initial chlorine testing and, as additional and final data become available, EPA will post the sampling locations and data to the map. The map is available at [www.epa.gov/flint](http://www.epa.gov/flint). Finally, staff from CDC are also working with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) on a plan to better prevent, detect, and report Legionellosis.

While there are statutory limitations affecting USDA's ability to expand access to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) as requested, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for WIC is allowing participants to use vouchers for ready-to-feed infant formula and USDA will provide more awareness of the WIC program and its benefits to those who may be eligible. In addition, HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) are working with their grantees in the area to disseminate public health education through Head Start, Early Head Start, Community Health Centers, and other programs to help families understand the risks of lead in the water, encourage residents to have their children screened, and assist families in obtaining screening for their children.

The CDC has presented recommendations for lead testing in children to MDHHS. CDC recommends that *all* children 6 years of age and under be tested by April 1, 2016, and that subsequent services be identified for those children with blood lead levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter or more. Further discussions on these recommendations, as well as the development of recommendations to estimate the level of lead exposure prior to testing, are ongoing with State and local partners. Similarly, CDC will make recommendations regarding appropriate long-term monitoring for children. We look forward to working with the State of Michigan to quickly implement CDC's lead testing recommendations.

HHS's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have been in communication with State of Michigan representatives to better understand your requests concerning Medicaid-related matters. Several of the requests represent benefits expansions, which would normally be

processed under State Plan Amendments or waivers. CMS will continue to make its staff available to refine your requests, consider them expeditiously, and, as appropriate, implement State Plan Amendments or waivers. Regarding your request related to the SBA, as I have discussed with you and your staff, SBA stands ready to help, but needs a written request from your office.

We continue to work with relevant State agencies to further clarify the remaining requests and assess their feasibility. Beyond these immediate- and short-term Federal efforts, HHS stands ready to work with you to develop a long-term plan that leverages the range of programs offered by the United States Government to complement State and local efforts. Together we are making progress. I am grateful for your ongoing willingness to thoughtfully engage on these issues as a partner in our efforts to assist the residents of Flint. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further thoughts or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nicole Lurie, M.D.

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH