

EPA Administrator Regan to Visit East Palestine Tomorrow, 534 Households Reached by Federal Interagency Teams on the Ground

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio – The Biden-Harris Administration today held another news conference with federal, state, and local partners to provide an update and details on the federal recovery efforts to the Norfolk Southern Train Derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. Tomorrow, EPA Administrator Regan will be on the ground in East Palestine for the third time. Administrator Regan, along with other federal partners, will participate in the grand opening of EPA's new Community Welcome Center at 25 North Market Street. The new community welcome center will be available to members of the East Palestine community and is a space where they can meet with staff from EPA and other agencies and learn more about services available to support the community. Additionally, EPA and other responding agencies will participate in a public meeting and open house later this week.

As of today, outreach teams dropped off informational flyers to 190 residences in East Palestine. This brings the total number of interactions to 534 households in the past few days that teams were in the community. We will continue the emphasis on getting information into residents' hands and listening and learning about other existing or emerging needs the people of East Palestine and impacted communities are facing.

To watch the entire media briefing, please visit [here](#). Briefings are scheduled daily at 4 p.m. ET in East Palestine until further notice.

Operational Updates:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA has conducted 578 home re-entry screenings to date and continues air monitoring at 15 stations within the community. EPA continues to offer the air screening service to any resident within the evacuation zone who wants a screening.
- For those interested, EPA recently set up a new information hotline. It's posted on EPA's website and is 866-361-0526. Members of the community can call this dedicated phone line to be directed to various services, including the opportunity to begin the intake process for scheduling cleaning services.
- Tomorrow, EPA will officially open a community welcome center at 25 North Market Street, where members of the community can drop in to ask questions about response efforts and access information about other resources being provided, including in-home air-monitoring and cleaning services. EPA continues to closely oversee Norfolk Southern's disposal of waste to ensure the safe removal of toxic waste, relying on the agency's decades-long experience handling hazardous waste.

Department of Transportation (DOT) & National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

- Today Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg wrote to the CEOs of Class 1 Freight Railroads encouraging them to join DOT's voluntary Confidential Close Call Reporting System. This system exists to prevent train derailments and other safety issues, and protects workers who report safety issues, but not a single major freight rail company has signed up.
- NTSB, an independent federal agency, is leading the investigation into the cause of the derailment. Yesterday NTSB issued an Investigative Update with factual findings on their investigation on the ground: <https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/NR20230214.aspx>
- Within hours of the derailment, staff from the Federal Railroad Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration staff were on the scene to support the NTSB investigation.
- Upon completion of the investigation, DOT will use all relevant authorities to ensure accountability and improve safety.
- DOT is demanding immediate actions from the Class I railroads, announcing continued and expanded action from DOT, and calling on Congress to take actions that will hold the industry accountable.

Health and Human Services (HHS) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

- Teams from CDC/ATSDR continue participating in door-to-door outreach to provide information on the Assessment of Chemical Exposure (ACE) survey and health information.
- Yesterday, staff completed four ACE surveys in the impacted area in Pennsylvania and provided the survey to more than 20 residences. More than 100 ACE surveys have been completed in Ohio.
- The team is poised to begin ACE surveys of incident responders.
- Outreach materials and health communications materials will be shared at the EPA community welcome center opening this week. ATSDR is also providing materials and information to local health authorities and federal partners.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- As of today, FEMA has 66 personnel on the ground that will continue to assist with outreach across the affected communities to ensure that we are meeting people where they are and connecting them to critical federal, state and local resources.
- Interagency teams were out in the community of East Palestine today ensure residents were receiving up-to-date information. FEMA staff are taking part in this mission by assisting in distributing flyers, answering questions, and directing residents to available resources.
- As of today, the teams dropped off informational flyers to 190 residences in East Palestine. This brings the total number of interactions to 534 households in the past few days that teams were in the community.
- As FEMA staff help interagency partners with this outreach, they will continue to support operational coordination, logistical planning and unity of effort.

Pennsylvania Governor's office

- The Shapiro Administration announced today that the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is opening a Health Resource Center in Darlington Township, Beaver County for residents of Beaver and Lawrence counties who have health concerns following the Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, OH on February 3, 2023.

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is conducting a door-to door survey this week to assess the chemical exposure to residents within a 1-mile radius of the derailment.
- Pennsylvania is opening a Health Resource Center in Beaver County on Tuesday with a PA DOH PIO presence there to speak with the media. Press release announcement: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/shapiro-davis-administration-opens-a-pennsylvania-health-resource-center-in-beaver-county/>
- DOH will be providing webinar sessions this week to physicians in Beaver, Lawrence Co and surrounding areas to brief them on the train derailment, the chemicals involved, and what signs and symptoms to look for when seeing patients.