

FAQ: As a Parent, What do I Need to Know?

Q: Is it safe for me to take my children home?

A: Yes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Ohio Department of Health have stated that the East Palestine community is safe, and residents may return home. This decision was based on air quality samples taken from 291 area homes which had no detections of vinyl chloride and hydrogen chloride. The U.S. EPA continues to conduct community air monitoring throughout the East Palestine area 24 hours a day and has not detected any levels of concern. Residents will be kept informed if there are concerns regarding air monitoring results.

Q: My child has asthma, should I be concerned?

A: Breathing in certain chemicals and smoke can aggravate asthma. If your child is having worsening asthma symptoms, like wheezing or shortness of breath, contact their healthcare provider. In case of a severe asthma attack, call 9-1-1.

Q: Are there risks in using tap water for my baby's formula?

A: If you have concerns about your water, you can use bottled water, however, sampling of East Palestine's municipal water system found no evidence of contamination associated with the derailment.

If you receive water from a private well and are concerned about water quality, you are encouraged to use bottled water until your water has been tested. To request free, private well testing, call 330-849-3919.

Q: What should I do if I think my child has symptoms of a chemical exposure?

A: If your child is experiencing symptoms like dizziness or fatigue, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, and/or headaches, you should contact your healthcare provider immediately. Another resource is the poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.

Q: Can my children play outside?

A: Yes. The U.S. EPA continues to conduct community air monitoring throughout the East Palestine area 24 hours a day and has not detected any levels of concern. Residents will be notified if there are concerns regarding air monitoring results.

Q: I'm pregnant...Are there any added risks for me and my baby?

A: As a precaution, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers are encouraged to use bottled water and work with their healthcare providers if they have specific health concerns about their exposures. Call the Residential Re-Entry Request Hotline at 330-849-3919 if you need help getting bottled water.