



Stop EtO in Lake County

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PRESS RELEASE

July 24th, 2019

This week, the Lake County Health Department released additional air monitoring results which continue to confirm unacceptably **HIGH** levels of Ethylene Oxide in the air around Medline and Vantage Specialty Chemicals (<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4188/EtO-Monitoring-Results>).

To provide context on the LCHD results, the U.S. EPA considers **0.0002 ug/m3** as the benchmark value for acceptable risk ("The concentration of ethylene oxide associated with a 1-in-a-million cancer risk, for a lifetime of continuous exposure, is 0.0002 ug/m3." - <https://www.epa.gov/il/ethylene-oxide-emissions-frequent-questions>). The highest amount detected during LCHD's air monitoring to date was **10 ug/m3** (by Medline) which is **50,000 times higher than EPA's target risk level**. Results at locations near Vantage were also above acceptable risk levels. The LCHD testing **results confirm** that Medline and Vantage pose a **public health crisis** in our community.

On Friday July 26, 2019 at 6:30pm the Stop EtO in Lake County citizen group is hosting a rally to demand the shutdown of Medline's and Vantage's Ethylene Oxide operations. The rally will be held in Gurnee, IL on the corner of Grand Avenue and Dilleys Rd (on the sidewalk by Starbucks). The attending residents and supporters are calling on Governor Pritzker, the IL EPA, the US EPA, and all our State and Federal Legislators to shutdown Medline's and Vantage's Ethylene Oxide operations. Lake County, IL deserves the SAME urgent response afforded to Willowbrook, IL where an EtO emitting facility, Sterigenics, was banned from using and releasing Ethylene Oxide into the air.

Below is a link to our change.org petition which has over 1,100 supporters calling for Medline's EtO operations to be shut down immediately:

<https://www.change.org/p/illinois-governor-immediate-shutdown-of-medline-eto-operations-a14bc1cf-faef-4a5d-a1aa-0123d32f967a>

About Stop EtO in Lake County:

Stop EtO in Lake County is a citizen-led movement. We aim to raise awareness of cancer-causing ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions in Lake County, IL and to eliminate it from our air. EtO is a known human carcinogen and it is being emitted into the air our children breathe by companies such as Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee, IL and Medline in Waukegan, IL. Vantage uses EtO for manufacturing. Medline uses EtO to sterilize medical equipment. People who live near EtO emitting facilities have higher incidences of cancers. EtO emissions pose the highest danger to children and our kids are breathing this cancer-causing gas every day, 24/7.