

Glioblastoma Concerns – St. Lucie County

Overview

The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County (DOH-St. Lucie) has been made aware of concerns within the community regarding the number of cases and the geographic location, of cancer, specifically glioblastoma, a type of cancer that can occur in the brain or spinal cord.

DOH-St. Lucie has committed to work with concerned citizens to bring together subject matter experts to examine the cases of glioblastoma in St. Lucie County. The Department looks forward to continuing transparency and open communication as this process moves forward.

What is DOH-St. Lucie doing to address these concerns?

Gathering Information

DOH-St. Lucie, along with community partners and subject matter experts have gathered feedback from patients, families, community support groups, medical specialists and local media to obtain a clear picture of concerns related to glioblastoma cases within the community.

Analyze Information

Subject matter experts in various fields are currently in the process of reviewing information gathered from several sources. Some of these experts include:

- **The Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS)** - FCDS is a statewide cancer registry legislatively mandated to collect data on all cancers diagnosed in Florida per Section 385.202 Florida Statute. The FCDS has been collecting the number of new cancers (i.e. incidence) diagnosed each year statewide since 1981. The FCDS is used to observe cancer trends and provide a research base for studies into the possible causes of cancer.
- **Radiation** – analysis of existing radiation data within St. Lucie County.
- **Environmental Sampling** – analysis of existing air, water and soil data within St. Lucie County.

Next Steps

DOH-St Lucie is coordinating with community partners, subject matter experts, and local media to host an open house to ensure the public can have direct access to experts to get their questions answered. More information on this event will be communicated soon.

It is important to remember that this process is ongoing and community members wishing to provide information or concerns are welcome to contact the DOH-St. Lucie at any time.

For information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention regarding cancer clusters please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/clusters/>.

For more information about Brain and Spinal Cord Tumors please visit the American Cancer Society website at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/brain-spinal-cord-tumors-adults/about.html>.

To contact DOH–St. Lucie please visit <http://stlucie.floridahealth.gov/> or call (772) 462-3800.