

## Property Soil and Air Sampling

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In mid-2017, manganese was detected in air samples taken near SH Bell, an industrial facility located at 10218 S Avenue O. SH Bell and at least one other company in the neighborhood handle and store manganese-containing materials. To ensure the health and safety of the entire neighborhood, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is sampling, or testing, soil and air in your neighborhood to determine if there are elevated levels of manganese or other metals that could be a potential hazard to human health.

### ***What is manganese?***

Manganese is a naturally-occurring substance. It is an essential nutrient, and a small amount of it in your diet is important to stay healthy. It is also used to make steel and is found in several consumer products. But, if inhaled at excess amounts it can be harmful to nerve tissue.

### ***What is the purpose of sampling soil and air?***

CDPH is collecting soil and air samples to determine if there is an excess of manganese in the area. Though manganese is naturally-occurring, we are sampling to determine if manganese or any other metals are present at levels that could cause problems for your health or the environment.

### ***Why is my property being sampled, but not my neighbors?***

CDPH is conducting samples in a variety of locations across the community. The individual sample locations were randomly selected.

### ***How will the Chicago Department of Public Health sample the soil and air?***

Once you provide consent, trained technicians will follow the below procedure to sample the soil:

1. Take photographs of the property for documentation
2. Collect a small jar of soil samples from your yard and send to a laboratory to test
3. Refill the sample area with fresh soil and restore the area to its pre-sampling state, including replacing any grass or vegetation that may have been disturbed

Depending on the results of the soil sample, our technicians will determine whether or not an air sample is necessary. We will follow up with you directly before any air samples are taken. All soil sampling activities are expected to take two days to complete. Results will be made available after all sampling is completed.

### ***What will be done following the results?***

If the results show there is an excess amount of manganese, CDPH will work with other government agencies, elected leaders, and community groups to determine the appropriate next steps to ensure the environment is clean and healthy.

### ***What should I do if I'm experiencing a health issue I believe is due to manganese?***

If you or a family member is experiencing an illness or other health issue you believe is due to excess manganese exposure, bring this to the attention of your doctor.

### ***What if I have other questions or concerns?***

You can speak to the technician doing the sampling or call CDPH directly at (312) 746-6621.