

Dear Director Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA,

Since taking office as the State Representative in the 114th District in January, I have fielded numerous phone calls from constituents concerned about the public health issues associated with the sewage leaks in Cahokia Heights.

Not only is the sewer problem unpleasant in terms of the smell, but the leakage, which results from heavy rainfall, is a significant public health issue for Cahokia Heights residents. The spread of bacteria-caused illnesses does not appear to be a coincidence. The presence of raw sewage in people's homes is the likely cause of these illnesses.

But despite numerous reports in the local media and the pleas of residents in Cahokia Heights, the problems and health concerns persist.

I am formally requesting your office to provide a complete investigation into the health risks the sewage leaks pose to Cahokia Heights residents and to provide both short and long-term solution guidance for the community.

What is happening in Cahokia Heights is more akin to what happens in third world countries. There are people getting sick and they need help. Specifically, they need your help. The Illinois Department of Public Health could be the catalyst to providing meaningful solutions to protect the health of residents of Cahokia Heights. I urge you to make the health of this community the priority it needs to be and to provide the guidance residents to resolve these community health concerns once and for all.

Sincerely,

Kevin Schmidt
State Representative
114th District