



From: Stephan Cancian [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 1:02 PM

To: Town Clerk <TownClerk@yorktownny.org>

Subject: Fluoride Legislation

To: Yorktown Town Clerk's Office

I am writing as the Executive Director of the Ninth District Dental Association and was present at last week's public hearing. At the end the Town Supervisor mentioned there would be a week to submit comments/files on your website. I have been on the site and cannot locate where to submit files, I see other files here:
<https://www.yorktownny.gov/townclerk/proposed-local-law-amending-chapter-280-water-re-fluoridation>.

I have attached some files for the Town Board, which were also handed to them that night. Also here is the American Dental Association's statement on the ruling and water fluoridation: ADA's [full statement](#).

Please let me know if there's a way I can upload these files or if this email is sufficient or if you have any questions..

Thank you.

Regards,
Stephan Cancian
Executive Director
Ninth District Dental Association
364 Elwood Avenue
Hawthorne, NY 10532
Stephan@ninthdistrict.org
914-747-1199
www.ninthdistrict.org



NYSDA Fluoride Statement

October 2024

Media Holding Statement

As the organization representing dental professionals across New York state, the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) is in strong agreement with the American Dental Association (ADA) that adding fluoride to community water supplies is a critically important measure in preventing tooth decay.

With over 75 years of research, fluoride has been proven safe and effective, reducing tooth decay by about 25% in children and adults. Hailed by the CDC as one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century, fluoridation continues to be a powerful step toward providing equitable dental care for all.

On September 24, 2024, a federal court directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take further action regarding fluoride levels in drinking water. However, the ruling did not ban or restrict the use of fluoride in public drinking water. Committed to ensuring optimal and accessible oral health for all New Yorkers, NYSDA strongly cautions towns against changing its pro-fluoridation policies based on one judge's recent ruling. Reversing these policies would undermine decades of scientific consensus and public health progress. The potential risks mentioned in the National Toxicology Program (NTP) review were linked to fluoride levels higher than the current U.S. recommendation, and the review clearly acknowledged that no harm was found at the optimal level of 0.7 parts per million.

Approximately 13 million New York state residents currently benefit from fluoride in the water. NYSDA remains steadfast in its strong belief that this current number should only be increased in the months and years ahead. We encourage the public to rely on sound, evidence-based science and remain wary of misinformation circulating online. NYSDA's goal is to ensure optimal, accessible oral health for all New Yorkers.

Community Water Fluoridation

Key Messages

In Summary

In light of a new Cochrane study and the EPA court ruling the American Dental Association does not change its endorsement of community water fluoridation as safe and beneficial to oral health. [Read full statement from 9/25/24.](#)

About the Case

- Environmental nonprofit Food & Water Watch and anti-fluoride groups like the Fluoride Action Network brought the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to court after their petition to ban water fluoridation was denied by the EPA in 2017.

About the Ruling

- A federal court ruled on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, against the EPA, ordering the agency take action to further evaluate potential health risks from currently recommended fluoride levels in the U.S. drinking water supply. "Action" is undefined at this point, but examples of potential "action" are labeling notification or regulatory action to adjust the therapeutic level.
- Judge Edward Chen said his ruling does not conclude with certainty that fluoridated water is injurious to public health, but that the evidence of its potential risk is enough to force the EPA to act and that fluoride is hazardous at the therapeutic level of 0.7 parts fluoride per million parts water are too close to U.S. drinking water levels.
- The judge's ruling cites a National Toxicology Program (NTP) review released in August, which concluded that "higher levels" of fluoride are linked to lowered IQ in children.

About the NTP Report

- The National Toxicology Program's (NTP) review does not provide any new or conclusive evidence that should compel any changes in current U.S. community water fluoridation practices because it did not find harm associated with the current optimally fluoridated water level of 0.7 parts fluoride per million. The ADA's official statement on the NTP Report can be found [here](#).
- The studies in the review were conducted outside the U.S. in areas with high levels of naturally-occurring fluoride in water. The NTP acknowledged that studies of fluoride exposure at recommended levels have not reliably demonstrated effects on cognitive development.
- Despite its discussion of the alleged impact of fluoride on IQ, the NTP monograph itself acknowledges the weakness of evidence in its studies and cannot establish fluoride as the cause of affecting IQ.

About the Effectiveness of Community Water Fluoridation

- Even with the wide-spread availability of fluoride toothpaste, studies show community water fluoridation continues to be effective in reducing tooth decay by about 25 percent in children and adults.
- [Community water fluoridation](#) has been hailed by the Centers for Disease Control as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

Community Water Fluoridation Key Messages

- Critics of fluoride in drinking water routinely cite the adoption of fluoride toothpaste and other dental products as evidence that it no longer needs to be added. However, organizations like the CDC state that water fluoridation and fluoride toothpaste work together to help prevent tooth decay and offer more protection against decay than using either one alone.
 - Fluoridated water keeps a low level of fluoride in the mouth throughout the day, while fluoride toothpaste delivers higher concentrations at important times of the day, such as bedtime.

Cochrane Library Review

- The ADA believes that the review does not present any new or significant findings on water fluoridation's impact to help prevent tooth decay. Read the latest statement from 10/4/24.
- Dr. Anne-Marie Glenny, co-author of the review said to NBC News, "There's no evidence to suggest that where water fluoridation programs are in place, that they should necessarily be stopped...Contemporary studies are showing that water fluoridation is beneficial."¹
- The National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC), an expert committee of the ADA, examined the review and noted important limitations in the findings.
 - There were only a few recent studies on which the review's conclusions are based. Many recent studies that show negative impacts on public health once fluoride is removed from the water supply were excluded.
 - The study's exclusion criteria means that highly relevant research from over the past decade that show significant increases in tooth decay in communities like Juneau, Alaska, Calgary, Canada and other countries after their decision to remove fluoride from water supplies were not included.
 - It's important of interest Cochrane researchers note a significant cost-savings due to fluoridation, which was also not included in the summary. Communities that have fluoridated water save an average of \$32 per person a year by avoiding treatment for cavities according to the CDC.²²
 - Scientific reviews on decay prevention should have evidence-based methodologies, be complete and impartial when conducting the overall analysis, and use measurements consistent with studies across the globe for clear interpretation of results.
- According to the CDC, water fluoridation and fluoride toothpaste work *together* to help prevent tooth decay and offer more protection against decay than using either one alone.
- The review advises that starting or stopping community water fluoridation requires careful consideration of the current evidence while also considering a population's oral health, diet, and consumption of tap water; movement or migration; and the availability and uptake of other cavity prevention strategies.

¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/still-need-fluoride-drinking-water-benefits-may-waning-study-suggests-rcna173790>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/oral-health/data-research/facts-stats/fast-facts-community-water-fluoridation.html>