

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter # 2016-12

To: Public Water Systems serving a population of more than 20,000 &
Public Water Systems that adjust fluoride in the water
L. Mathieu

From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section

Date: May 13, 2016

Subject: Gov. Malloy Signs Legislation Updating Connecticut's Community Water Fluoridation Law
for New Federal Standards – Public Act 16-4 - Effective Date October 1, 2016

Effective October 1, 2016, Section 19a-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes in regards to Community Water Fluoridation has been revised as follows:

A water company, as defined in section 25-32a, shall add a measured amount of fluoride to the water supply of any water system that it owns and operates and that serves twenty thousand or more persons so as to maintain an average monthly fluoride content that is not more or less than 0.15 of a milligram per liter different than the United States Department of Health and Human Services' most recent recommendation for optimal fluoride levels in drinking water to prevent tooth decay.

The current U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommended optimal level of fluoride is 0.7 mg/l. As a result of this statute change, water companies adjusting the fluoride level of the water shall maintain a fluoride monthly average that is not more or less than 0.15 mg/l of the optimal fluoride level.

The state Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Connecticut residents will continue to receive the public health benefits of community water fluoridation, thanks to Public Act 16-4 recently signed by Governor Dannel Malloy that keeps Connecticut's fluoridation levels in line with federal recommendations on the optimal fluoride level for preventing tooth decay. The DPH's Drinking Water Section and Office of Oral Health heralded the bill's passage and signing, coming during National Drinking Water Week. Connecticut is still one of only two states in the country to adopt federal water fluoridation standards that were first put into law in 1962. Since that time, we've seen a dramatic decrease in tooth decay.

Dental caries, or tooth decay, is an infectious, communicable, bacterial disease that affects both children and adults, yet is almost always preventable. There are now multiple sources of fluoride, such as toothpaste, mouthwash, professional fluoride treatments, as well as consuming products made with fluoridated water. In April 2015, the HHS determined that community water fluoridation remains an effective public health strategy beyond that provided by other fluoride products. Taking the additional sources of fluoride into consideration, HHS issued a new recommendation, eliminating the original 1962 recommended range for fluoridation levels, and replacing it with one level, the lowest level in the old range, for the optimal concentration of fluoride in drinking water that provides the best balance of protection from dental caries.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Carissa Madonna at (860) 509-7333.

CC: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief – DPH Regulatory Services Branch
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