

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



August 13, 2025

Remington Nevin, MD, MPH, DrPH
St. Clair County Health Department
Port Huron, MI
Via email

Dear Dr Nevin,

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I write to support the recommendations of the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry in stating that community water fluoridation is effective, safe, and prevents unnecessary dental disease, a costly and painful condition.

The AAP is particularly concerned with the high rates of early childhood caries (tooth decay) in the United States and the detrimental effects this disease can have on children. Dental caries, although largely preventable, is the most common chronic disease in childhood, five times more common than asthma. Cavities can lead to severe health problems, including serious infection, debilitating pain, dietary and speech problems, and in rare cases, even death. Many children and families are unable to access timely dental care that is geographically feasible and affordable.

The AAP supports community water fluoridation to help protect children's teeth. Regular and frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride is the best way to protect the teeth against caries. This exposure is readily accomplished by drinking water that has been optimally fluoridated throughout the day and brushing with fluoride toothpaste twice daily.¹ Community-based water fluoridation intervention optimizes the level of fluoride in drinking water, resulting in pre-eruptive and post-eruptive protection of the teeth.

Water fluoridation is a cost-effective means of preventing dental caries, with the lifetime cost per person equaling less than the cost of one dental restoration. In short, fluoridated water is the cheapest and most effective way to deliver anti-caries benefits to communities.² Water fluoridation is effective and inexpensive, does not require daily adherence, and benefits everyone regardless of socioeconomic status.³

The AAP continues its mission to ensure the health and well-being of all children, and, to this end, supports local and state efforts for children to have access to safe, optimally fluoridated water. If you require additional information, please contact Sunnah Kim, skim@aap.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. Kressly, MD, FAAP".

Susan J. Kressly, MD, FAAP
President

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1 Bright Futures Guidelines for the Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 4th Edition. 2017.

2 Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting. *Pediatrics*. Pediatrics December 2020, 146 (6).

3 Early Childhood Caries in Indigenous Communities. *Pediatrics*. June 2021, 147 (6).