

Facts about Community Water Fluoridation



Waterworks Operators

1 Virginia's Board of Health recommends that all public water systems in Virginia provide drinking water with fluoride at optimal levels.¹

2 The American Water Works Association supports Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) to help prevent tooth decay.² CWF is safe, helps prevent tooth decay, and saves money in dental treatment costs.³

3 In the U.S., most (75 percent) public water systems are fluoridated.⁴

4 The U.S. Task Force on Community Preventive Services examined 21 studies and concluded that fluoridated water reduces tooth decay by 29 percent among children ages 4-17.⁵

5 Over 95 percent of Virginians served by public water systems receive water with fluoride that is added to reach the optimal amount.⁶

6 Waterworks operators play a very important role in maintaining the optimal concentration of fluoride (0.7 mg/L) in the public water supply.⁷

Financial assistance is available to localities for fluoridation equipment and supplies. To learn more about CWF, or to inquire about financial assistance, visit: www.vdh.virginia.gov/oral-health/cwf/fluoridation-grant-funding

- ¹ Virginia State Board of Health. Policy Statement Regarding Community Water Fluoridation.
- ² American Water Works Association. Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies policy statement.
- ³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cost Savings of Community Water Fluoridation.
- ⁴ Campaign for Dental Health. Common Questions about Community Water Fluoridation.
- ⁵ U.S. Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Summary of Task Force Recommendations and Findings. 2002.
- ⁶ CDC. Water Fluoridation Reporting System Database. 2016.
- ⁷ Department of Health and Human Services. Federal Register. Vol. 80, No. 84. 5/1/2015. Public Health Service Recommendation for Fluoride Concentration in Drinking Water for Prevention of Dental Caries.