

Community Water Fluoridation

The Oral Health Program (OHP) promotes community water fluoridation by providing information and technical assistance to communities interested in initiating community water fluoridation. The OHP also helps the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) monitor the quality of fluoridated water systems.



“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified community water fluoridation as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.”

Ten Great Public Health Achievements—United States, MMWR 1999; 48(12):241-3.

Fluoridation Assistance Program

The OHP offers limited funds when available for the start-up and maintenance of community water fluoridation. Communities of any size can request funds for equipment used in the fluoridation feed system, or fluoride testing equipment used in the water treatment laboratory. Interested communities can access the Fluoridation Assistance Program guidelines and application materials on the OHP website:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/ohs/pod/cwf/Fluoridation%20Assistance%20Program.aspx>.

Monitoring the Quality of Fluoridation

The OHP works closely with the OEPA to monitor the quality of fluoridation. The OHP reviews monthly OEPA operating reports for all fluoridating water systems in Ohio to identify those that meet strict operational, monitoring and reporting standards. These systems are then eligible to receive the Fluoridation Quality Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. OEPA provides data on fluoride levels in all Ohio water systems to the OHP so state and local health professionals can stay informed about natural and adjusted fluoride levels in communities. The OHP maintains county-level information on the fluoride content of public water systems on its website.

Technical Assistance and Resources to Promote Community Water Fluoridation

The OHP provides technical assistance and resources to communities interested in starting community water fluoridation, and promote the use of evidence-based information such as the *Campaign for Dental Health - Life is Better with Teeth* website.



Scan to learn more about community water fluoridation.

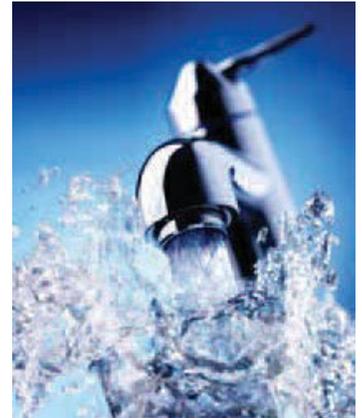
Ohio Cities Exempt From Mandatory Fluoridation Due to 1970 Referenda

1. Celina (Mercer)
2. Crestline (Crawford)
3. Dover (Tuscarawas)
4. Galion (Crawford)
5. Greenfield (Highland)
6. Greenville (Darke)
7. Lancaster (Fairfield)
8. Lockland (Hamilton)
9. Mansfield (Richland)
10. Mt. Vernon (Knox)
11. New Carlisle (Clark)
12. New Philadelphia (Tuscarawas)
13. Oakwood (Montgomery)
14. Ohio Water Service-Washington Court House (Fayette)
15. St. Marys (Auglaize)
16. Springfield (Clark)
17. Troy (Miami)
18. Twin City-Dennison (Tuscarawas)
19. Urbana (Champaign)
20. Wilmington (Clinton)
21. Wooster (Wayne)
22. Xenia (Greene)

Ohio's Fluoridation Law

In 1969, the Ohio General Assembly passed a law requiring fluoridation of public water supplies that serve more than 5,000 persons. The law provided a 240-day window for communities to be exempted through a referendum process.

Thirty Ohio communities voted to be exempt. Since then, eight communities have reversed that decision. Athens, Bellefontaine, Bellevue, Fairborn, Lebanon, Middletown, Delaware and Tipp City are now fluoridated. The communities that remain exempt are listed on the left.



Status of Community Water Fluoridation in Ohio

Currently, 92 percent of Ohioans served by public water supplies have fluoridated water. Ohio ranks 11th nationally in the percentage of persons on public water systems that receive fluoridated water. However, nearly 822,000 Ohioans on public water systems do not receive fluoridated water.

Facts about Community Water Fluoridation

- Fluoride is found naturally in all water.
- Community water fluoridation is the adjustment of the fluoride that is found naturally in water to optimal levels to protect oral health.
- Community water fluoridation benefits both children and adults.
- More than 70 years of research by credible scientists has consistently shown that community water fluoridation is safe.
- More than 100 national and international health and professional organizations recognize the public health benefits of fluoridation.

For further information, please contact:

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<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/ohs/oralhealth.aspx>