

From: [Michael Toner](#)
To: [Water Utility Board](#)
Cc: [Boryc, Louis](#)
Subject: WI AGD Statement re Fluoridation
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 1:30:51 PM
Attachments: [WI AGD Letter re Fluoridation.pdf](#)

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To whom it may concern,

I have attached here a letter addressed to Gene McLinn, Chair of the Madison Water Utility Board, regarding the Board's review of their fluoridation policy at tomorrow's meeting. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you'd like to discuss further.

Thank you,

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TO MADISON WATER UTILITY BOARD CHAIR EUGENE L. MCLINN

Dear Mr. McLinn,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Academy of General Dentistry (WI AGD) and its over 600 general dentist members in our state, I am writing to respectfully ask the members of the Madison Water Utility Board to support the fluoridation of the city water system. The WI AGD has long been committed to the practice of community water fluoridation as a safe, practical, and cost-effective means of improving oral health and preventing tooth decay.

Regarding the use of fluoride in water supplies, AGD policy states:

When used appropriately, fluoride is safe and effective in preventing and controlling dental caries. Regular use throughout life will help protect teeth against decay. All water supplies, including bottled water, should have appropriate fluoride levels. All fluoridated items, including toothpaste, should be used as recommended by your dentist.

The safety and benefits of fluoride are well documented and have been reviewed comprehensively by scientific and public health organizations in the U.S. and internationally. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), water fluoridation has been shown to reduce tooth decay in children and adults by approximately 25 percent. Based on its contribution to the dramatic decline in tooth decay in the U.S. since the 1960s, the CDC named community water fluoridation one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

The AGD, along with many other dental and public health organizations, has worked to promote among the public an approach to dental care that emphasizes prevention of dental disease. Accordingly, community water fluoridation is the most efficient and cost-effective public health measure in preventing dental disease, and has been proven to result in cost-savings for taxpayers. Studies carried out by the CDC show that for cities with a population under 20,000, every \$1 invested in water fluoridation results in \$16 savings in dental treatment costs.

As a policymaker, the most effective measure you can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health for the residents of Madison is to support fluoridation of the city water system. If the WI AGD can be of any assistance on this issue or any other related to oral health, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Lou Boryc, DDS, FAGD

President, Wisconsin Academy of General Dentistry