

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT FLUORIDATION

1. What is fluoridation?

It means, simply, adding an element in which the Medford water supply is deficient.

2. Just exactly what does fluoridation mean to dental health?

It means a reduction up to 65% in dental cavities as proven by extensive research and tests over a 10 year period. It is the most practical and effective method of guaranteeing dental protection for all children.

3. Is it expensive?

It will cost each household only 10¢ per month. One dental repair bill would pay for approximately 30 years of fluoridation for that individual.

4. Has it been tested and tried?

Fluoridation has been under study for at least 25 years, and a controlled investigation has been in effect in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Newburgh, N. Y., since 1945, which has shown that there is no reasonable doubt as to its safety or effectiveness. More than 30 million persons are now benefitting from controlled fluoridation programs.

"... through the providence of nature, no other public health procedure in the annals of history has been so thoroughly tested in field trials under the widest variety of controlled circumstances."

James H. Shaw
Harvard School of Dental Med.,
Boston, Mass.

5. Does fluoridation cause the water to taste or have any odor?

NO.

6. Who supports fluoridation?

All major medical, dental and public health bodies in the U.S., as well as all public minded and progressive citizens seeking benefits to the general public.

7. Is fluoride a poisonous substance?

Fluoride is not harmful in the proportions recommended, 1 part fluoride per 1 million parts water. Some 3 million persons have been drinking naturally fluoridated water at 1 PPM for generations, and many more persons have lived on slightly more or slightly less than 1 PPM. It is almost impossible to eat a diet containing no fluorine as over 130 of our foods contain 0.2 to 0.3 ppm Fluorine.

8. Is it cumulative?

No. At 1 ppm almost all fluoride is excreted, only a small portion of it going directly into building stronger teeth.

9. Does fluoridation have harmful effects upon the aged or chronically ill?

No. According to every reliable medical and scientific authority there is absolutely no harmful effects on anyone from the drinking of 1 ppm fluoridated water.

In March, 1954, the Commission on Chronic Illness (an independent national agency founded for the purpose of studying problems of chronic disease, illness and disability) adopted a stand supporting fluoridation, stating that after considerable study no harmful effects were noted on the aged or chronically ill.

10. Does fluoridation violate personal rights?

No more so than opposition to a tested

and beneficial general health measure. It is no more socialism or governmental control of the individual than adding chlorine to the water to prevent water borne diseases like typhoid fever... no more than compulsory regulations relating to control of venereal disease, blood tests for marriage licenses, vaccination, traffic regulations, compulsory education, social security and income taxes. All of these things and more are done for the benefit of everyone.

11. Is it constitutional?

Fluoridation has been upheld as constitutional by every court considering the matter.

"We see no difference from a constitutional standpoint between introducing chlorine into a water supply to remove impurities and thereby safeguard the public health, and introducing fluorides to reduce the incidence of dental decay among children and thereby promote the public health and general welfare."

Oregon Supreme Court decision in Baer v. City of Bend

12. Is it medication?

"... in the contemplated water fluoridation, the City of Tulsa is no more practicing medicine or dentistry or manufacturing, preparing, compounding or selling a drug, than a mother would be who furnishes her children a well-balanced diet, including foods containing vitamin D and calcium to harden bones and prevent rickets, or lean meat and milk to prevent pellagra. No one would contend that this is practicing medicine or administering drugs."

Oklahoma Supreme Court decision in Dowell v. City of Tulsa

13. Does fluoridation cause discoloration of the teeth?

No, not at the 1 ppm optimal level.

14. Does fluoridation present any engineering difficulties?

"Fluoride application to water presents no unusual problems. The chemical feeding equipment available for fluoride application is standard, accurate and dependable... actually presents no greater difficulties to the operator than he is faced with routinely. It is of interest to note that no serious control problems have arisen to date at any of the towns that are fluoridating."

Raymond J. Faust
Exec. Assistant Secretary
American Water Works Assoc.
January 26, 1956

15. Will it corrode pipes or injure hot water heaters?

There is no reliable source indicating that fluoridation either corrodes pipes or injures water heaters.

Question: "We had evidence presented showing an advertisement, stating that it would eat through metal. I was wondering if possibly enough time has elapsed to show the chemical reaction on the pipes themselves."

Answer: Well, this is our 10th year and there has been no damage, corrosive condition, by any testing which we can make. We do not expect to find any.

Mr. William Harris, Supt.
Grand Rapids, Mich., Water Dept.
before Congressional committee
(H.R. 2341), May, 1954

16. How about cities discontinuing fluoridation?

The Better Health Committee has letters from authorities in every city

where fluoridation has been discontinued. They all read about the same, indicating a scare campaign was used to defeat fluoridation.

"... Much mis-information was expressed and caused fears and hysteria... the vote represented more emotional reaction to false advertising by certain pressure groups, rather than a little serious thinking or logical reasoning. No ill effects are noted in the community that could be attributed to the fluorides in the water supply."

William P. Malone
Guilford County Health Dept.
Greensboro, North Carolina

"Regarding engineering difficulties—none. Pipes dissolving—ridiculous—no trouble whatsoever."

Hot water heaters breaking down—no difficulties whatsoever."

Regarding health hazards—the only difficulty we have had has been from imaginary fears of a few uninformed individuals."

Orvis S. Maag
Department of Public Health
Springfield, Illinois

17. Can an accident in the water plant cause over-dosage and severe harmful effects?

Acute morbidity manifested by increased salivation and vomiting may be caused by ingesting 0.25 g. sodium fluoride. This quantity in an 8-oz. glass of water represents 1,000 ppm sodium fluoride, or about 450 ppm fluoride. To obtain this concentration, it would require more than four tons of sodium fluoride per million gallons of water processed which is obviously not possible in a program of water fluoridation, even if gross negligence occurred. J.A.W.W.A. 43:641 (Aug.) 1951.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE...

... That MEDFORD CHILDREN Will Have GUARANTEED DENTAL PROTECTION and That's SAFE, INEXPENSIVE

FLUORIDATION!

So REMEMBER!

Tuesday, November 6

Vote 56-X-YES

WATER FLUORIDATION FOR DENTAL HEALTH.

