



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta GA 30333
March 1984

Dear Colleague,

This is our second effort in an attempt to establish an effective communications network among those involved in fluoridation promotion.

As we stated in our first letter, the purpose of these letters is to increase awareness of the fluoridation activities in the various States and to provide an inexpensive, efficient way for readers to obtain ideas and information for new materials and activities.

Beginning with this letter, we have added a bibliography of articles on fluoridation, which we hope to include as a standard feature. This bibliography is taken from information received by us each month from the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland. These articles are not available from the Centers of Disease Control, but may be obtained from your local library or from the National Library of Medicine through your local library.

Also in this letter, we are including a copy of our newly designed logo, which replaces the "Eager Beaver" symbol. We expect the new logo to become a standard part of our operations.

We appreciate very much the response we have received to our last Dear Colleague letter and hope the responses will continue in the future. Remember that your contributions and suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "William B. Bock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "B" and "C" at the end.

William B. Bock, DDS
Chief
Dental Disease Prevention Activity
Center for Prevention Services

ALABAMA FLUORIDATION PAMPHLET AIDS WISE DECISIONS

Years ago, during the Alabama Bureau of Dental Health's promotional meetings with concerned citizens, it was discovered that the general public, as well as some health professionals, lacked the knowledge about fluoridation to make wise decisions and/or to answer the most common questions about fluoridation.

In an attempt to assist them, the Alabama Bureau developed a pamphlet which provides general information and answers commonly asked questions.

Entitled "Fluoridation? Yes!," the red, white, and blue brochure contains brief and pertinent information written for the general public, to insure a high level of comprehension.

"We, as well as others, feel that a short, concise pamphlet would be more carefully and thoroughly read, and thus more effective than a long, wordy booklet," Mac Spurlin, Prevention Program Coordinator for the Bureau of Dental Health, said.

Distribution of the pamphlet varies according to need. In some instances, they are given only to those attending a special promotional meeting, while at other times, they are given to all interested dentists, physicians, and pharmacists for distribution to their patients/customers. They are also made available for parents or guardians of students attending local schools.

For more information, contact:

Mac Spurlin
Prevention Program Coordinator
Bureau of Dental Health
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

205/261-5657

TEXAS PRODUCES VIDEOTAPE ON FLUORIDATION

"Fluoridation in Your Community," a videotape on community action, has been developed by the Texas Department of Health for professional and lay people who wish to bring fluoridation to their community.

The 17-minute videotape features direct interviews to show viewers people who have already gone through the process of introducing fluoridation to an area. These interviews explore the pitfalls and difficulties of the participants and the reasons why they succeeded or failed.

The main points emphasized in the tape are to contact key people, gather endorsements, show broad-based support beyond the dental community, educate

decision makers, and show visible support at important meetings where the subject of fluoridation will be discussed.

The videotape can be purchased from University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for \$50 or borrowed from Texas Department of Health.

To order a copy, contact:

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Television Department
Attn: Susan Wilson
1100 Holcombe Boulevard, Suite 1900
Houston, TX 77030

To request a loan copy, contact:

Texas Department of Health
Bureau of Dental Health
Attn: Linda s. Crossett
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

512/458-7323

(Loan copy may be reproduced.)

NEW EMBLEM DEVELOPED BY DDPA

A new emblem has been developed by the Dental Disease Prevention Activity of CDC, which replaces the old symbol of the "Eager Beaver."

The new emblem, which will become the standard logo for DDPA, is a shield depicting a nature scene surrounding a healthy tooth being touched by a drop of water. A banner stretched diagonally across the scene reads "Water Fluoridation." Bordering the shield is the completed message: "Natural Protection Against Tooth Decay."

A copy of the new emblem is included with this letter.

For more information, contact:

Dental Disease Prevention Activity
Center for Prevention Services
Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

404/329-1830

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Prices vary for materials listed below. Write or call American Dental Association for complete ordering information. The address is 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Toll-free phone numbers are 800/621-8099, 800/572-8309 (in Illinois); 800/621-3291, ext. 2638 or 2639 (Alaska and Hawaii).

Fluoride Helps Prevent Tooth Decay (pamphlet). Discusses all forms of fluoride, including school mouthrinse, tablets, topical fluoride, and fluoridation.

Why We Recommend Fluoridation (pamphlet). Describes fluoridation, its cost, and its value to the community.

What About Fluorides? Statement staffer on the importance of fluoride in preventing caries; discusses fluoride dentifrices, topical fluoride applications, and fluoridation.

Fluoridation Facts. Questions and answers about fluoride, its effects, benefits, efficacy, and safety.

Nature's Decay Fighter: Water Fluoridation (poster).

Are you Protected by the Fluoride Family? (poster).

Fluoridation: A White Paper. 16mm film or videocassette. Documentary approach on the safety, effectiveness, and background of community water fluoridation. Suitable for high school and adult audiences.

Fluoridation Update: Classic fluoridation studies with questions and health answers for health professionals; 35-minute audiocassette with automatic pulsing included.

Fluoridation: A Wise Investment. Public health benefits of fluoridation--for community leaders; 15-minute audiocassette with automatic pulsing included.

Fluoridation: Nature's Protection. The benefits of community water fluoridation--for talks to the general public; 1 5-minute audiocassette with automatic pulsing included.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

The following materials are available in limited quantities from the Dental Disease Prevention Activity, Center for Prevention Services, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

Fluoridation Facts...Answers to Questions About Fluoridation (booklet)

Facts About Fluoridation (Readers Digest reprint)

About Fluoridation...The Community Way to Reduce Tooth Decay (booklet)

Beat Perio (poster)

You and Your Teeth (booklet)

Fluoridation--Part I and Part II (Consumer Reports reprints)

Keeping Your Teeth Healthy (pamphlet)

Save Your Teeth (booklet)

Beware of the Plaque (booklet)

Fluoridation Is for Everyone (pamphlet)

Fluoridation--Nature's Way To Prevent Tooth Decay (pamphlet)

Start Early (pamphlet)

THE MEETING PLACE

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 25-26. Executive Director: G.K. Degnon, CAE, 1311A Dolley Madison Boulevard, Suite 3 A, McLean, VA 22101.

U.S. Public Health Service Professional Association, Phoenix, Arizona, June 3-6. For more information, write U.S. Public Health Service Professional Association, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 313, Washington, D.C. 20006.

National Fluoridation Conference, scheduled for June 20-21 at Embassy on the Park--Sheraton, Kansas City, Missouri. Sponsored by Centers for Disease Control. For more information, contact Paul Turner, Deputy Chief, Dental Disease Prevention Activity, Center for Prevention Services, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone 404/329-1830 (FTS:236-1830).

Medical-Dental-Legal Seminars, Financial Management for the Professional, Carousel Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland, June 30-July 4, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25; July 28-August 1; August 4-8; August 11-15; August 18-22; August 25-29, September 1-5. Information: E. Thurmont, 10009 Ormond Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854.

National Medical and Dental Association, Great George, New Jersey, August 3-4. President: E. Zylinski, DDS, Garden City, Michigan. Secretary: R.S. Dziejma, DDS, 72-41 Grand Avenue Maspeth, New York 11378.

SUMMARY OF 1983 FLUORIDATION REFERENDA

From our records (which are gathered from newsclips and not actual sources), there were nine referenda held on November 8, 1983 concerning fluoridation. One community, Bronson, Michigan, voted to retain water fluoridation, while the other eight were asked to decide whether they wanted to implement it. Six of the eight communities decided not to initiate water fluoridation. The following are the voter results:

<u>City</u>	<u>Votes Against Fluoridation</u>	<u>Votes For Fluoridation</u>
Springfield, MA	17,313	7,536
Chicopee, MA	13,254	6,010
Agawam, MA	3,156	1,496
Three Rivers, MI	1,084	442
Bronson, MI	130	297
Frankfort, MI	254	233
Dexter, ME	480	723
Indian Township, ME	26	126
Wooster, OH	3,907	3,055

There were ten other referenda held at various times during 1983 in eight States. Results showed that three communities decided to fluoridate: South Milwaukee, Wisconsin; New Braunfels, Texas (by one vote: 1,136 to 1,135); and Sheridan, Oregon.

Information from newsclips received in 1983 also revealed that 20 of 28 city councils in 17 States voted in favor of fluoridation.

AIDS GUIDELINES PUBLISHED FOR DENTAL CARE PERSONNEL

The U.S. Public Health Service is distributing a booklet on "Recommended Precautions for Health Care Workers and Allied Professionals Regarding Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)" for clinical and laboratory staffs, dental care personnel, and persons performing necropsies or providing morticians' services.

The booklet contains two reprints from the CDC publication, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, one from the November 5, 1982 issue and one from the September 2, 1983 issue. The 1982 article is entitled "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): Precautions for Clinical and Laboratory Staffs." The 1983 article is "Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS): Precautions for Health-Care Workers and Allied Professionals."

For a copy of the booklet, call the hotlines established by the U.S. Public Health Service to answer questions about AIDS. In the 48 contiguous United States, the number is 800/245-6867 (toll-free); in Washington, D.C., call 646-8182; in Alaska and Hawaii, call collect 202/245-6867.

ABSTRACT AND COMMENT

Clemmesen, J. The alleged association between artificial fluoridation of water supplies and cancer: a review. WHO Bull 61:871-83,1983.

Author's abstract: Since 1945, artificial fluoridation of water supplies has been used with success to reduce the incidence of dental caries in many areas where the natural fluoride content of the water is low. However, since 1975, it has been maintained that such artificial fluoridation is followed by an increased risk of cancer. These allegations originate from a single source. The present review, which covers re-examinations of the same data, as well as evidence from scientific and governmental bodies in many countries, show these assertions to be erroneous.

EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM DDPA: This review provides an excellent summary of the reports that examined the alleged fluoridation/cancer link. Clemmesen, who is the former Chief Pathologist at the Finsen Institute, Copenhagen, the Director of the Cancer Registry for Denmark, and a member of the World Health Organization Advisory Group on Cancer, summarizes the original study and the later version by Yiamouyiannis and Burk before examining the refutations by the National Cancer Institute, Oldham and Newel, Taves, and Kinlen and Doll. Clemmesen also reviews cancer morbidity and mortality data in fluoridated and nonfluoridated areas in several other countries. He states that this allegation has come from a single source, and when examined using valid statistical methods, there is no association of an increased risk of cancer in fluoridated areas.

Clemmesen concludes by saying, "This misleading and refuted suggestion of an association between artificial fluoridation and cancer, which, even if true, would not have proved a causal relationship, has been responsible for a considerable waste of effort and resources that are sorely needed for research and prevention in other fields. It has also served to misrepresent to the press, the public and politicians in many countries, the facts about a very effective and simple way to prevent dental caries in populations."

DDPA STAFF

In response to all who have asked, here is a list of the DDPA staff and the functions of each:

1. William B. Bock, D.D.S. - Chief

Overall coordinator of all DDPA activities; sets all dental policy; serves as liaison with professional dental groups.

2. Paul M. Turner, Jr. - Deputy Chief

Oversees and coordinates DDPA staff activities concerning the areas of community awareness and involvement, education and promotion, training, administration, and data collection.

3. Tom Reeves - Chief Fluoridation Engineer
Darrell Sanders - Fluoridation Engineer

Training courses at State and local levels for State water supply engineers, local public health officials, and water plant operators.

CDC-sponsored national fluoridation engineering training program at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Annual advanced engineering course.

Monitoring/surveillance.

4. Gwen Harvey - Program Analyst

All activities relating to the National Fluoridation Census, the National Fluoridation Drinking Water Proficiency Testing Program, the Quarterly Fluoridation Reports, and fluoridation referendum elections.

5. Cathy Backinger - Dental Health Program Specialist

Community involvement concerning town meetings, workshops, media educational campaigns; contact with Federal, State, and local counterparts, etc., to assess national efforts.

Training of State and local health officials concerning current techniques of public education, key leader identification, community organization and motivation, and communication techniques.

Technical and programmatic consultation to Federal, State, and local officials, dental and medical professionals, civic leaders, etc., on matters concerning community water fluoridation.

Health promotion and education efforts focusing on fluoridation.

6. Betty Ballinger - Program Assistant

DDPA national clearinghouse of information relative to dental disease prevention and water fluoridation (reports, studies, articles, pamphlets, etc.)

Quick reference resource guide on all aspects of fluoridation (commonly referred to as flip-chart cards.)

7. Lynn Crosier - Library Technician

Redesigning DDPA's national clearinghouse of fluoridation and other dental information system to facilitate faster and more accurate physical access to resource materials. Much of this information will be entered into a computerized system at a later date.

8. Carolyn Richardson - Secretary
Linda Snyder - Secretary

Provide all clerical and general support to DDPA staff.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dental Disease Dear Colleague Letter is written and produced by Technical Information Services and Dental Disease Prevention Activity, Center for Prevention Services, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. Articles or ideas for articles are welcomed. Address information to the attention of Caffilene Allen. Ms. Allen's phone number is 404/329-1819 (FTS: 236-1819).

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