



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

Denver Board of Water Commissioners
1600 West 12th Ave.
Denver CO 80204

Aug. 12, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

We recommend Denver Water continue to fluoridate the city's water supply. More than seven decades of research and 3,000 individual studies have proven community water fluoridation is a safe, effective and inexpensive public health benefit for all Denver residents.

Despite coverage gains under the Affordable Care Act, many Denver residents still don't have access to quality, affordable oral health services. Students miss school, workers are less productive and many Denver residents suffer needlessly due to preventable dental disease. Community water fluoridation provides health benefits for all Denver residents, regardless of income, gender, age, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Research shows that community water fluoridation can reduce cavities by as much as 40 percent at a cost of \$1 per person per year for large water systems like Denver, with a return on investment of \$61 per person per year in avoided dental costs. Despite opponents' claims, there is no credible evidence that fluoridation increases the health risks of Denver residents.

Every major health organization recommends community water fluoridation, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which calls it one of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20th Century.

We know that Denver's water supply contains naturally occurring fluoride and your operators add small amounts of fluoride to maintain an optimal level of 0.7 milligrams per liter according to U.S. Health and Human Services recommendations. We also recommend that level and urge you to continue your current practice to provide the maximum benefit for all Denver residents.

Community water fluoridation will help us achieve our shared goal of making Colorado the healthiest state in the nation. We ask for your help in achieving that goal by continuing the fluoridation practices that have provided health benefits to millions of Denver residents since 1953.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Larry Wolk', is written over a white background.

Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

