



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron St., P.O. Box 8647
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www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE

ANN ARBOR LOWERS FLUORIDE IN TAP WATER

ANN ARBOR, Mich., January 12, 2011 — Earlier this month the City of Ann Arbor slightly lowered the amount of fluoride added to the municipal drinking water to match the revised target level of 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/L) proposed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The previous federal fluoride recommended level in drinking water, set in 1962, was a range of 0.7-1.2 mg/L. The proposed lower fluoride level is currently under a 30-day public comment period coordinated by these agencies.

By adopting the new, lower recommended level, the city will continue to provide the community's desired dental protection benefits of fluoridation and save an estimated \$20,000 annually in reduced chemical costs. Ann Arbor's Water Treatment plant has historically provided drinking water with an average fluoride concentration of 0.94 mg/L.

According to a January 7, 2011 HHS press release, the revised fluoride recommendation is "intended to apply to community water systems that are currently fluoridating or will initiate fluoridation" and is based on an analysis of:

- Scientific evidence related to effectiveness of water fluoridation on cavity prevention and control across all age groups;
- Fluoride in drinking water as one of several available fluoride sources,
- Trends in the prevalence and severity of dental fluorosis; and
- Current evidence on fluid intake in children across various ambient air temperatures."

"One of water fluoridation's biggest advantages is that it benefits all residents of a community-at home, work, school, or play," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH. "Today's announcement is part of our ongoing support of appropriate fluoridation for community water systems, and its effectiveness in preventing tooth decay throughout one's lifetime."

For more information about Ann Arbor water treatment services, including the annual water quality report, please visit www.a2gov.org/WaterTreatment.

Additional references:

- Report on Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPAs's Standards <http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/safety/nas.htm>
- U.S. EPA Q&A on Fluoride <http://tinyurl.com/epa-fluoridejan2011>.



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Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve. ###