

FLUORIDATION ORDINANCE

Suggested Provisions

1. Findings of fact:

- Fluoridation of community water supplies is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health for a lifetime.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has proclaimed community water fluoridation one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.
- Fluoridation of community water supplies is supported by the American Dental Association, the U.S. Public Health Service (“USPHS”), the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization.
- Studies over the past 60 years have repeatedly confirmed the safety of water fluoridation and its effectiveness in preventing dental decay.
- A United States national health objective for the year 2010 is to increase to at least 75 percent the portion of the population served by community water systems providing optimal levels of fluoride. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 66 percent of the population received fluoridated water in 2000.
- Community water fluoridation is a public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care.

2. Authorization, Direction and Responsibility.

The city [insert title of appropriate person or entity, given the state and local regulatory scheme, e.g. director of health/board of health] (the “Responsible Party”) is authorized and directed to fluoridate the city’s water supply by [date] and is thereafter responsible for the fluoridation of that supply.

(Rationale: Identifies individual/entity to maintain authority over the fluoridation process)

3. Funding.

Funding shall be provided [describe funding mechanism].
[Modify as needed to reflect funding mechanism.]

(Rationale: Need money to get the job done.)

4. Introduction of Fluoride.

Upon the direction of the Responsible Party, the [insert name of public works entity that will fluoridate] (the “Agency”) shall take the steps necessary to fluoridate the city’s water supply, and shall introduce a fluoride compound meeting American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards into the city water supply in such quantities as required to maintain throughout the distribution system a fluoride concentration at levels recommended by the USPHS, or otherwise required by the state health department.

(Rationale: Helps assure optimal fluoridation of the water. Allows the state to provide necessary guidance.)

5. Records.

The Agency shall keep an accurate record of the type and amount of fluoride compound introduced and the quantities of water treated.

The Agency shall conduct and keep records of tests for fluoride compound in the treated and untreated waters in accordance with CDC engineering and administrative recommendations for water fluoridation, or otherwise required by the state health department.

The Agency shall make copies of the records required above to the Responsible Party every [set time frame for predetermined intervals, if desired] and/or as otherwise requested by the Responsible Party.

(Rationale: Provides tools to assist in accounting for the management of the process; provides method to monitor quality and accountability)

NOTE: This document identifies select elements for possible inclusion in a local water fluoridation ordinance. Exactly what elements will be needed in a particular community, and how they will need to be worded, will depend upon existing state and local law. The document is especially designed to provide helpful information to dentists and dental societies promoting fluoridation in their communities, but is not intended or offered as legal or other professional advice. Readers must consult their own legal counsel for such advice.

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