

# New York's Participation in the Water Fluoride Reporting System

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The New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Dental Health (BDH) and Bureau of Water Supply Protection (BWSP) are cooperating to provide information to the National Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). WFRS is a national database containing information on State's water supplies that provide fluoride treatment. The goal of the WFRS is to strengthen the water fluoridation program by assuring that an optimal level of fluoride is maintained in public water supplies. States that are currently participating include Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

## *Water Fluoride Reporting System and New York State Water Treatment Plant Operators*

In New York State, approximately 180 public water systems treat with fluoride, while approximately 660 systems purchase water from systems that treat with fluoride. The BDH and BWSP evaluated fluoride treatment data included in the New York State Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) and concluded that some public water systems may not receive optimal fluoride treatment (optimal treatment is considered as 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L). BDH and BWSP will work together to monitor systems that provide fluoride treatment, and if necessary, provide recommendations and technical assistance to suppliers of water to achieve optimal treatment levels.

To assist water treatment plant operators in reporting daily fluoride usage, BWSP is developing a new water system operation report tentatively known as DOH-360CFL. Similar to existing reporting of daily chlorine residual (using DOH-360), operators will record both the chlorine residual and fluoride residual on a single form. Existing water system operational reporting procedures will not change; as is now required, operators will submit the new DOH-360CFL to their local health department by the tenth (10) day of the following month.

New York State has recently joined the CDC's Proficiency Testing Program for fluoride. This is the most comprehensive Proficiency Testing program available in the nation for fluoride. To participate, all PWS that treat with fluoride will be submitting their monthly sample to the state lab for testing. The monthly sample concentration will be compared to the daily concentration recorded on the DOH-

360CFL report. It will also be included in the CDC's Proficiency Testing program.

## *My Water's Fluoride and Oral Health Maps*

Consumers will be able to access fluoride residual data on a website maintained by the CDC. Through a new feature entitled My Water's Fluoride, consumers will have access to data on public water systems that treat with fluoride. Using a second feature entitled Oral Health Maps, a geographic information system (GIS) application, dental professionals can access information on water system and water fluoridation provided in the water systems serving each patient. Dental health professionals will utilize the data to adjust supplemental fluoride treatments for their patients. Links to My Water's Fluoride and Oral Health Maps can be accessed at: [www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/index.htm)



*Utilizing SDWIS data and GIS applications to identify those consumers receiving water treated with fluoride.*

*(Photo courtesy of Peter Berical, NYSDOH)*

## *Operator Training and Support*

The Department of Health will conduct training on fluoride treatment and the WFRS system at various locations across the state within the next year. Continuing Education Units will be available to water supply operators for participation in fluoride training workshops.

To obtain additional information, please contact Julie Reuther of the Department's Bureau of Dental Health at (518) 474 1961 or Walter Meyer of the Bureau of Water Supply Protection at (518) 402-7714. ♠