



MEMORANDUM

To: City/County Directors of Environmental Health
District Directors

From: Kristine Wheeler, P.E., Director 
Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Date: May 11, 2023

Subject: Optimal Concentration at Fluoridated Public Water Systems

The Department promotes the treatment of drinking water to obtain optimal fluoride concentration as a significant and cost-effective public health measure to help prevent and control tooth decay. In 2015 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention set the optimal fluoride concentration in drinking water to 0.7 mg/L. Water systems that treat with fluoride should record daily concentrations on the monthly operating report (MOR) using form DOH-360CFL. Local health department (LHD) staff must review completed MOR to ensure optimal concentrations are achieved.

The Bureau has reviewed four years (2019-2022) of fluoride data in SDWIS for all systems indicated in SDWIS to provide fluoride treated water. A summary of that data is provided in the attached spreadsheet. Concentrations greater than 1.0 mg/L have been highlighted in green while values less than 0.6 mg/L have been highlighted in yellow. Concentrations of 0 mg/L are highlighted in red. As the Bureau no longer receives completed MOR, only the data reported in SDWIS, primarily routine IOC sample results, were available for review. The values in the attached spreadsheet may not be representative of all entry point locations or the daily measurements reported on the MOR. For those systems not achieving optimal fluoride concentrations, local health departments (LHD) are asked to review recent MOR and follow up with water systems as necessary.

Public Health Law Section 1100-a was amended in 2015, requiring several steps to be completed and approvals to be received before a fluoridating water system can cease treatment. If any LHD identified a water system that has ceased treatment without obtaining the necessary approvals, the Bureau is available to provide additional guidance.

Water systems experiencing challenges with their fluoridation equipment may receive technical assistance. The New York Rural Water Association, under contract with the Bureau, is available to provide onsite assistance at no cost to the water system. Grants are also available from the Department to upgrade or replace fluoridation equipment. Eligible expenses include necessary studies, engineering, and equipment costs. Additional grant information is available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/rfa/20171/>.

If there are any questions or if additional assistance is needed, please contact your field coordinator.

Attachment

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