



Department
of Health

Oral Health Priorities and Focus Areas Supporting Preventive Interventions

Dionne J. Richardson, DDS, MPH
Division of Family Health
State Title V Dental Director

16th October 2025

Oral Health Activities - NYSDOH Update



CDC Grant - Enhance Oral Health Programs



Support for Community Water Fluoridation



School-based Health Center Dental Services



Support and Tracking Community Water Fluoridation



DOH Guidance and Advisories

Water Fluoridation Press Release
COVID Vaccine Guidance



**Department
of Health**



An official website of New York State. [Here's how you know](#) ▾

Department of Health

[Individuals/Families](#)

[Providers/Professionals](#)

[Health Facilities](#)

[Health Data](#)

[About Us](#)

[Search](#)

You are Here: [Home Page](#) > [2025 Press Releases](#) > Statement from State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald on Health Benefits of Water Fluoridation

Statement from State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald on Health Benefits of Water Fluoridation

[Statement from State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald on Health Benefits of Water Fluoridation](#)

Oral Health Activities - NYSDOH Update cont'd.



Clinical Guidance and Health Advisories

COVID-19 Health Advisory for Health Professionals

COVID-19 ADVISORY

General Information and the Latest Developments FAQ.

This page is designed to provide clear, regularly updated information for the public. It is available at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions-0> and is also linked from the main COVID-19 page <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home> for easy access. For specific questions about COVID-19 vaccines, the contact email remains covid19vaccine@health.ny.gov

Clinical Guidance

GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY



<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1594.pdf>

CDC State Promotion of Strategies to Advance Oral Health

Focus Areas and Activities

Community Water Fluoridation	Medical Dental Integration Diabetes and Oral Health	Evidence Based Preventive Dental Services (EBPDS)	Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
Provide Technical assistance and administrative support to Water fluoridation systems.	Report and disseminate data about relationships between the oral health of adults with diabetes.	Use secondary data analyses and program implementation data to expand access to EBPDS in populations of focus.	Promote dental IPC resources with oral health staff state HAI program and organizations to increase oral health IPC expertise.
Provide NY State DOH Sponsored Mini-Grants to Community Water systems.	Build and expand partnerships to raise awareness about evidence-based strategies to integrate medical and dental services.	Use partnerships to increase EBPDS participation in schools and communities that experience barriers to oral health care	Compile and disseminate an electronic Safe Dental Practice in Schools and Communities (IPC Toolkit).
Work with LHDs to enhance monitoring and reporting fluoride levels	Co-host a Public Health Live Presentation to discuss MDI to improve diabetes and periodontal health	Share data and resources to support EBPDS	Promoting CDC and non-CDC IPC training resources to support effective IPC in high-need and other school-based and community dental settings, with a focus on CDC Foundations training.

Community Water Fluoridation

Main Activities

- Education and training
- Monitoring and surveillance

Providing Support

- Technical - Providing technical assistance to water systems through NYRWA
- Financial - Drinking Water Fluoridation Grant Recipients – 51

Population

- Population Served: 13M
- Percentage of population in NYS who receive optimally fluoridated water– 71.6%
(Source: New York State Prevention Agenda)

Fluoridation adjusted water systems (Source CEH, 2024 SDWIS Report):

- 109 community water systems (CWS) adjust fluoride.
- 184 CWS purchase fluoride adjusted water.



School Based Health Centers in NYS

	3/31/20 (Pre-Pandemic)	9/20/23 (Post-pandemic)	10/01/25 (Post-pandemic)
Number of Operators	48	41	40
Number of Sites	2,215	2425	2,484
Upstate/Downstate	951/1,264	939/1,486	911/1,573



Publications and Resources

For more Information on Publications and Links, please visit the NYSDOH's website at

<https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/dental/publications.htm>

https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/dental/weblinks_oral_health.htm

COVID-19 General Information and the Latest Developments FAQ.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions-0>

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

covid19vaccine@health.ny.gov

To order Oral Health publications, please use the

[Oral Health Publication Order Form](#)

Contact: ogs.sm.GDC@ogs.ny.gov



Contact Us

Division of Family Health

Dionne J Richardson, DDS, MPH - State Dental Director

email: Dionne.Richardson@health.ny.gov

Palsh Maheshwari, BDS, MBA, MPH – CDC Project Coordinator

email: Palsh.Maheshwari@health.ny.gov

Dhivya Priya Vaithiyanathan, BDS, MDS, MPhil – Volunteer

email: DhivyaPriya.Vaithiyanathan@health.ny.gov

Bureau of Child Health

Oral Health Unit

email: SBHC-L@list.ny.gov



Thank You

