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Board of Health

Resolution on Community Water Fluoridation (CWF)

WHEREAS, Dental caries – the destruction of dental hard tissues – can result in pain, infection and tooth loss¹,

WHEREAS, Dental caries, or tooth decay, is a common chronic disease that can cause pain, suffering, and diminished quality of life throughout one's lifespan²,

FURTHERMORE, Left untreated, tooth decay can progress and lead to infection, tooth loss, and more complex and expensive treatments. Untreated tooth decay can affect essential aspects of daily living, including eating, speaking, and performing at home, school, or work²,

WHEREAS, Dental caries is one of the most common non-communicable diseases that affects both adults and children globally³,

WHEREAS, Community water fluoridation is hailed as one of ten great public health achievements of the 20th century⁴,

WHEREAS, The health and social impact of dental caries have been reported among people of all ages, from very young children to the elderly^{5,6,7},

WHEREAS, The economic impact of dental caries on the affected individuals and society has also been documented⁸,

WHEREAS, An adequate continuous exposure to fluoride provides significant protection from dental caries^{13, 14},

WHEREAS, Children with poor oral health are more likely to miss school and suffer academically^{10,11,12},

WHEREAS, Numerous recent systematic reviews have found that water fluoridation is associated with a significant decrease in dental caries, mostly in children^{15, 16, 17, 18, 19},

WHEREAS, A review by the US Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF), found that starting water fluoridation decreased caries in children aged 4-17 by 30-50% and that stopping water fluoridation increased caries by 18% ²⁰,

WHEREAS, Community water fluoridation is a safe method of delivering fluoride at a population level with numerous systematic reviews of the potential adverse health effects of water fluoridation not finding evidence that there is a significant or consistent association between water fluoridation and the adverse outcomes investigated including neurologic conditions, cancer or osteoporosis ^{21,22,23,24,25},

WHEREAS, Community water fluoridation is a highly cost-effective means of preventing tooth decay ²⁶,

WHEREAS, numerous respected subject matter experts on dental health endorse community water fluoridation as a safe and effective means to reduce dental cares including the American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Dental Association, National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research, Parent Teachers Association, U. S. Surgeon General, and the World Health Organization,

WHEREAS, Community water fluoridation benefits all members of a community regardless of socioeconomic status,

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

The Western Plains Public Health Board of Health supports the use of community water fluoridation as a safe and effective public health strategy to reduce dental caries and improve community oral health.

ADOPTED: February 21, 2025

SIGNED: 
WPPH Board of Health President

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