



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
“FLUORIDE ADDITION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIES DRAFT REGULATION”
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, July 28, 2026 5:30 p.m.
St. Clair County Administration Building
County Commissioners Meeting Room (second floor)
200 Grand River Ave.
Port Huron, Michigan 48060**

1. **Call to Order:** Health Officer, Elizabeth King, opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m.
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Health Officer, Elizabeth King.
3. **Present:** Elizabeth King, Health Officer; Greg Brown, Health Department Administrator, Dr. Remington Nevin, Medical Director and Tammie Berger, transcriptionist.
4. **Opening:** Health Officer welcomed the public and explained the purpose of the hearing and guidelines for comment. Medical Director summarized key features of the draft regulation.
5. **Public Comment:** The following individuals spoke at the Public Hearing:
 - Kim Scheible, Fort Gratiot, MI
 - Dr. Ann Marie Ernst, Fort Gratiot, MI

Elizabeth King read receipt of comments received via email to be placed on the record:

- Beverly DeCer
- Jim Soto, Port Huron, MI
- Linda Van Howe, Port Huron, MI
- Theresa Newman, Port Huron, MI
- Jacqueline Voss, RN
- Peter Lovallo, MS Chem Engineering
- Ruth Habalewsky, R.S.
- Kimberly Raleigh, EdD, MHSA, RDH
Executive Director, Michigan Oral Health Coalition

6. **Adjournment:** 5:40 p.m.



Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 11:43 AM
To: HDWebEmail
Subject: Web Contact to Public Health

Recipient:
healthdept@stclaircounty.org

Message:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK ON WATER FLUORIDATION! If you have not seen this information, I hope that it may help you. All the best, Beverly DeCern Williamsport, PA sorry the links don't work here... Japan, without community water fluoridation, has experienced a decades-long decline in tooth decay among children, reaching a remarkably low average DMFT (Decayed, Missing, Filled Teeth) rate of just 0.53 in 12-year-olds in 2023. Meanwhile, the CDC reports an average DMFT of 4.9 among U.S. adolescents ages 12-19 despite widespread fluoridation policies: CDC Oral Health Surveillance Report - Table 10 Table 10. Mean number of decayed (DT), missing (MT), filled (FT), and de... The mean number of decayed (DT), missing (MT), filled (FT), and decayed, missing, or filled (DMFT) p Researchers concluded that Japan's experience demonstrates that substantial reductions in dental caries can occur through non-systemic approaches, suggesting that fluoridation alone may not adequately explain long-term improvements in oral health outcomes. A 40-year decline in permanent-tooth caries among 12-year-olds in Japan in the absence of systemic fluoride-based prevention: public health implications. - article on pub med. A 40-year decline in permanent-tooth caries among 12-year-olds in Japan ... Japan represents a rare natural social experiment demonstrating that sustained population-level caries reduction...

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:54 PM
To: HDWebEmail
Subject: Flouride Regulation Comments

"Dr." Nevin.

You are a quack. Resign.

Jim Soto
Port Huron, MI

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 6:18 AM
To: HDWebEmail
Subject: Water Fluoridation

To whom it may concern:

I would very much like to continue water fluoridation at the level that science has demonstrated to be safe for human health and protective of teeth. I think there is ample evidence about fluoridation of water.

Thank you
Theresa Newman
3503 Gratiot Ave
Port Huron, MI 48060

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 7:34 AM
To: HDWebEmail
Subject: Flouride discussion

I would like to add my comments regarding flouride. I am a child of the 50s/60s, knowing many children who had a lot of cavities during those years, including myself. As flouride was introduced into our water, incidences of cavities greatly lessened. My own children during the 80s/90s each had only one small cavity their entire lives and they are now in their 40s. I feel that flouride in the public's water has proven itself to be a great benefit to the public health and encourage St. Clair County to maintain this level of flouride in our water.

Thank you,
Mrs. Linda Van Howe
Port Huron
Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 12:03 PM
To: HDWebEmail
Subject: Regarding water flouridation

ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

I'm a retired registered nurse who as a child grew up without fluoride in our water and then benefitted from the fluoride when it was later added. I have 7 siblings and I noted the changes in their teeth as we grew up. It made a significant difference in the decrease in cavities for all of us. Dental health is so important and to retain your teeth as you age. I know this has helped me immensely. Dental care or insurance is not universal for everyone so any way that can help people lower their costs for families and individuals is so beneficial and appreciated. Please ignore RFK Jr's weird views and lack of knowledge on health issues and continue with the beneficial care we can give our community. Thank you
Jacqueline Voss, RN

Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 5:57 PM
To: HDWebEmail
Subject: Fluoride in drinking water

Virtually every dentist will agree that the small concentrations of fluoride added to potable water supplies over the last several decades has IMPROVED human health. Furthermore, it's been scientifically proven to help prevent tooth decay and gum infections.

Why in the world would an alleged health professional allow uninformed individuals decide on their own that they know better than those who have studied the subject for years?

What's next? You're going to endorse witch doctors? Quacks like Dr. Oz?

Do not destroy or let others destroy the progress modern science has contributed to reducing health care costs and improving quality of life.

Pete Lovallo, MS Chem Engineering
Retired (30+ years experienced) water treatment engineer, state certified

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through

us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

??2 Corinthians? ?5?:?20? ?NIV??

<https://bible.com/bible/111/2co.5.20.NIV>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:08 AM
To: HDWebEmail
Subject: Web Contact to Health Department

Recipient:
healthdept@stclaircounty.org

Message:

Dear St Clair County Commissioners: I am a county resident and a retired St .Clair County employee. I do not see the need or understand why there is a draft for a Fluoride Regulation. The State of Michigan oversees the public water supply; the Health Department manages the Drinking Water Wells program. The following questions about this regulation are: Are there other local Health Departments that have a regulation? How would the Health Officer enforce this regulation? Is the regulation legal? Is the regulation overstepping Michigan's water rules? How would fines be collected? Will more employees need to be hired because of this regulation? I do not want this Regulation; I feel that the current system is working. I believe that the 0.7mg/L fluoridation level is safe for human consumption, and the local municipalities are using this level. I am requesting answers to my questions, and non-passage of this regulation. The Health Department has many other issues to deal with, besides wasting time on a regulation that is beyond their authority. Thank you for your time.
Sincerely, Ruth Habalewsky, R.S.



July 28, 2026

St. Clair County Health Department
St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
220 Fort Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Members of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners and St. Clair County Health Department Leadership:

On behalf of the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, I respectfully urge St. Clair County not to adopt the proposed Regulation Regarding Fluoride Addition in Community Water Supplies.

MOHC supports the careful and continued review of emerging research. However, public health policy must distinguish between community water fluoridation at the recommended level of 0.7 milligrams per liter and the significantly higher fluoride exposures evaluated in much of the research cited in the proposed regulation.

The National Toxicology Program concluded, with moderate confidence, that higher estimated fluoride exposures, such as drinking water concentrations above 1.5 milligrams per liter, may be associated with lower IQ in children. It also stated that there were insufficient data to determine whether drinking water containing 0.7 milligrams per liter, the level recommended for community water fluoridation in the United States, negatively affects children's IQ. The NTP emphasized that an association does not establish a cause-and-effect relationship and that additional research is needed regarding lower fluoride exposures. In May 2026, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit vacated the related 2024 district court ruling on procedural grounds and remanded the case for further proceedings. The appellate court did not decide the underlying scientific question.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently developing a new Human Health Toxicity Assessment of fluoride in drinking water. That assessment is not yet complete, and EPA has stated that it will not prejudge its outcome. MOHC believes it would be premature for a local regulation to anticipate the findings of that process or use illustrative calculations that EPA has not adopted to justify a regulatory framework. Any local action should follow completion of the EPA assessment and consider subsequent federal and state guidance.

Although the proposed regulation states that it does not prohibit fluoridation, it would automatically use any future EPA maximum contaminant level goal as a local regulatory trigger. Water systems would then have only 90 days to reduce or discontinue fluoride addition or provide a notice that could characterize continued fluoridation as a health risk. This process could create unnecessary confusion and undermine public confidence before federal and state agencies have evaluated the findings and provided implementation guidance.

Community water fluoridation at the recommended level continues to be supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Dental Association, and Michigan's public health and drinking water agencies. It remains an important tool for preventing tooth decay, particularly among children, older adults and residents who face barriers to regular dental care.

Fluoride toothpaste, varnish, sealants and professional dental services are valuable, but they do not provide the same consistent, community-wide benefit. Discontinuing or discouraging fluoridation would likely have the greatest effect on residents with the fewest resources and the least access to preventive care.

MOHC respectfully asks St. Clair County to defer action on this regulation, maintain community water fluoridation at the recommended level where it is currently provided, and allow the EPA's scientific review to be completed. Any future action should be based on the completed assessment, transparent public review and meaningful input from dental, medical, public health and water-system experts.

Thank you for considering our comments and for your commitment to protecting the health of St. Clair County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Raleigh". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kimberly Raleigh, EdD, MHSA, RDH
Executive Director
Michigan Oral Health Coalition
mohc.org