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Statement on Community Water Fluoridation in Massachusetts

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In the US there are more than 184 million people receiving the health and economic benefits of community water fluoridation.

In Massachusetts we have more than 3.9 million residents receiving these same benefits. Of these, 17% are receiving fluoridated water from systems that use sodium fluoride. Amesbury is the only public water system in Massachusetts that has temporarily stopped fluoridating due to problems they are having with their fluoridation equipment and sodium fluoride.

All fluoride products including sodium fluoride must meet American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards for quality, as well as the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Standard 60 for quality. These include: 1. Material handling properties; 2. Safety concerns; and 3. Purity and contaminants. The safety along with the purity and contaminants of all products is verified and validated by independent certification entities and are not a concern. For more information on fluoride compounds and standards go to

http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/engineering/wfadditives.htm

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health monitors the amount of fluoride being added by the community water systems to ensure that optimal levels for dental health (0.9ppm to 1.2ppm) are maintained. Fluoridation is safe, cost-effective and practical for preventing tooth decay; and benefits all residents regardless of their age or income status.

For the past three years, Massachusetts has been the recipient of a national water fluoridation quality award presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There is no public safety concern about fluoridation in Massachusetts.

For more than 65 years community water systems in this country have been adjusting the fluoride content of water to a level that is optimal for preventing tooth decay. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to promote the positive benefit of community water fluoridation, as does the Department of Public Health.

