



Nevada Nurses Association Position Statement on

Fluoridation of Public Drinking Water Systems

Effective Date: March 10, 2017

Status: *New Position Statement*

Written By: *Environmental Health Committee*

Adopted By: NNA State Board

I. STATEMENT OF NNA POSITION

In alignment with the American Nurses Association's Position Statement¹ and scientific evidence to date, the Nevada Nurses Association provides endorsement and recommendation for the fluoridation of community water systems in Nevada when the following conditions exist:

- The concentration of fluoride in the public drinking water is in accordance with the most current U.S. Public Health Service² recommendations for safe and optimal prevention of dental caries.
- State and local governments have carefully considered whether to fluoridate the public drinking water based on the existing water supply's naturally occurring fluoride concentration.
- Safe and effective water fluoridation practices are followed, including monitoring, training, technical and financial assistance as necessary to expand and maintain water fluoridation programs.
- Current research evidence supports the benefits of public water fluoridation and does not indicate harmful risks.
- Current recommendations on fluoridation of public water supplies from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention³ and the American Public Health Association⁴ remain in support of this public health intervention.

II. RATIONALE

Scientific evidence has demonstrated that fluoridation of community water supplies is a foundation for better oral health across the lifespan.¹⁻⁴ Water fluoridation assists in preventing and minimizing dental carries. Children with the greatest dental need and who are at highest risk for tooth decay appear to benefit the most from water fluoridation.⁴

Although there are oral health disparities for minorities and rural communities, eliminating health disparities across Nevada is a priority for NNA.

III. REFERENCES:

1. American Nurses Association Position Statement on Fluoridation of Public Drinking Water Systems (March 18, 2016). Accessed 03/09/2017 at: <http://nursingworld.org/Fluoridation-PublicWaterDrinkingSystemsBrief>
2. U.S. PHS Recommendation for fluoride concentration in drinking water for the prevention of dental caries (05/01/2015). Accessed 03/09/2017 at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/05/01/2015-10201/public-health-service-recommendation-for-fluoride-concentration-in-drinking-water-for-prevention-of>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statement on the evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation (January 30, 2017). Accessed 03/09/2017 at: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/pdf/cdc-statement.pdf>
4. American Public Health Association Position Paper on Community Water Flouridation in the United States (October 28, 2008). Policy Number: 20087. Accessed 03/09/2017 at: <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/24/13/36/community-water-fluoridation-in-the-united-states>