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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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December 2, 2016

Matt Crespin, MPH, RDH
Associate Director
Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin
6737 W. Washington St., Suite 1111
West Allis, WI 53214

RE: Request for information related to fluoride in drinking water

Dear Mr. Crespin:

Recently, Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin contacted the Wisconsin Oral Health Program to request information about adverse neurologic health effects attributable to fluoride in community drinking water and the concern that the process of adding fluoride could result in corrosion of water pipes that would release lead from the pipes into the water and cause adverse health effects related to neurotoxicity.

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program notes the following:

- Established research provides no compelling and consistent evidence to suggest a potential association between the fluoridation of water and adverse neurologic health effects.
- Similarly, established research provides no compelling and consistent evidence to suggest a potential association between the fluoridation of water and increased lead exposure, or that corrosion of water pipes is attributable to fluoridation.
- For over 70 years, Wisconsin has utilized the public health practice of community water fluoridation.
- Substantial scientific evidence exists to support the safety of community water fluoridation.
- Community water fluoridation benefits everyone by providing protection against tooth decay, especially for individuals with limited access to oral health prevention services. (In a community the size of Milwaukee, cost-savings can be as high as \$100 for every dollar invested in fluoridation).

The following resources directly address the concerns raised:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Corrosion of Pipes - Engineering Fact Sheet](#) states that "The concern that using fluorosilicate additives to fluoridate drinking water causes water system pipes to corrode is not supported by science." It also states that at the level recommended for use in a public water supply, "the fluoride ion has little influence on

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either corrosion or on the amounts of corroded metals released into the water. Fluorosilicates contribute to better water stability with less potential for corrosion, because silica stabilizes the pipe surface.”

The Community Preventive Services Task Force conducted a systematic review of published studies and released a [Task Force Finding and Rationale Statement](#). The Task Force specifically examined the literature on potential harms associated with higher levels of fluoride in water related to lowered intelligence. The Task Force concluded that research does not demonstrate that CWF results in any unwanted health effects other than dental fluorosis.

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program, in collaboration with the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health, can provide additional support to address concerns about health and safety related to drinking water. Staff can provide information about the health effects of a broad range of substances, including the others (lead, chlorine, and copper) identified in the City of Milwaukee’s recent memorandum. If you need further information, please feel free to contact us at Mark.Moss@wisconsin.gov or Robbyn.Kuester@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-5152.

Sincerely,



Mark E Moss, DDS, MS, PhD
State Dental Director



Robbyn Kuester, BSDH, RDH
Sealant and Fluoridation Program
Coordinator

cc: Jeff Phillips BEOH Bureau Director