

Don't Feed Babies Fluoridated Water Say NYS Health Officials



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Babies fed infant formula mixed with New York's fluoridated tap water risk developing enamel fluorosis or discolored teeth, according to the New York State Department of Health (1). Bureaucrats fail to effectively broadcast this vital information beyond their little-read websites which places babies at unnecessary risk of developing fluoride-damaged teeth, reports the NYS Coalition Opposed to Fluoridation, Inc. (NYSCOF).

Fluoride chemicals are added to tap water serving 12 million New Yorkers (8.4 million in NYC) in a failed effort to reduce tooth decay. Fluoridation costs NYC about \$20 million yearly.(2)

In 2006, the National Research Council (NRC) cautioned that infants can fluoride-overdose via reconstituted baby formula using "optimally" fluoridated water and risk growing white spotted, yellow, brown and/or pitted permanent teeth (enamel fluorosis). (3)

"Parents, who are concerned about the risk of enamel fluorosis, can mix liquid concentrate or powdered infant formula with water that is fluoride-free or contains low levels of fluoride. Examples are water that is labeled purified, demineralized, deionized, distilled or reverse osmosis filtered water," according to the NYS DoH's website (1) Advanced enamel fluorosis (pitting, brown stains) can be reached with exclusive and/or excessive formula use over a prolonged period, they report.

"Of course, parents are concerned about possibly disfiguring their baby's brand new teeth," says attorney Paul Beeber, NYSCOF President. "Officials should inform new mothers about this in every way they can. Instead they omit or downplay its significance seemingly to protect fluoridation policy," says Beeber

Over 41% of adolescents are afflicted with enamel or dental fluorosis, reports the CDC. (4)

"As a cosmetic dentist, it is not uncommon to have patients receive gorgeous porcelain veneers to correct their dental fluorosis...Costs range from several hundred dollars to well over \$25,000 and need to be retreated every 10 to 20 years for life time costs which may exceed \$100,000 per person, writes Bill Osmunson DDS in the *British Medical Journal*. (5)

Fluoride exposure is rising and causing children's tooth imperfections, ranging from white spots to brownish discolorations and pitting, according to dentist Elivir Dincer in the *NYS Dental Journal*. "Such changes in the tooth's appearance can affect the child's self- esteem," Dincer writes.(6)

The NYS DoH joins many fluoridation-promoting organizations which quietly advise against feeding fluoridated-water to infants, e.g., US Dept of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control,

American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, Mayo Clinic, California Dental Association, Vermont Department of Health, Minnesota Dental Association, Delta Dental, and others.

"All formula, either concentrates or ready-to-feed, [already] have some fluoride," says Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health, US Department of Health and Human Services.(7) Koh advises low-fluoride bottled water be used for routinely reconstituting infant formula.

"Government and University officials who protect the chemical fluoride over children's health should be defunded including researchers, state health commissioners and their dental bureaus," says Beeber.

The Fairbanks, Alaska City Fluoride Task Force recommends ending fluoridation because, "This will reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of significant incidence and severity of fluorosis, especially fluorosis associated with the use of [Fairbanks fluoridated] water to prepare infant formula." (8)

In 1990, some scientists tried in vain to get the word out. ("Suppression by Medical Journals of a Warning about Overdosing Formula-Fed Infants With Fluoride," *Journal Accountability in Research*) (9)

FluorideGate? A recent article in an American Association for Justice newsletter for trial lawyers described potential upcoming fluoride legal actions based on personal injury, consumer fraud, and civil rights harm. (10)

References:

1) New York State Department of Health, "Guidance for Use of Fluoridated Water for Feeding during Infancy "

2) FOIA Letters to Paul S. Beeber from NYC Department of Environmental Protection February 2009
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3) National Research Council, "Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standards"

4) Centers for Disease Control

5) "Fluoridation: Time to Reevaluate," letter by Bill Osmunson, DDS

6) "Why Do I Have White Spots on My Front Teeth," by Elvir Dincer, DDS, New York State Dental Journal, January 2008, Page 58 Volume 74, Number 1

7) Government Perspectives on Healthcare
HHS: Proposed Guidelines on Fluoride in Drinking Water
A Commentary By Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH

8) See here.

9) See here.

10) "Fluoridegate and Fluoride Litigation: What Law Firms Need to Know About Fluoride Toxic Tort Actions," by Chris Nidel, Rockville, MD & Daniel G. Stockin, Ellijay, GA Winter/Spring 2011 American Association for Justice newsletter

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References:

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