



**American Water Works
Association**

Utility Member Benefit

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The Authoritative Resource for Safe Water[®]

Public Affairs Advisory

TO: AWWA Member Utilities

FROM: AWWA Public Affairs

DATE: January 7, 2011

Who:	US Department of Health of Human Services and US Environmental Protection Agency
What:	Community water fluoridation recommendations
When:	Now

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) this morning distributed a press release regarding new scientific assessments related to community water fluoridation.

Key elements include:

- HHS is proposing that the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water can be set at the lowest end of the current optimal range to prevent tooth decay
- USEPA is initiating review of the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water.

The announcement says “these actions will maximize the health benefits of water fluoridation to Americans by continuing to prevent tooth decay while reducing the possibility of children receiving too much fluoride.”

The press release is available here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110107a.html>

The American Dental Association also released a statement that read in part: “As a science-based organization, the ADA supports the Department of Health and Human Services' recommendation to set the level for optimally fluoridated water at 0.7 parts per million. This adjustment will provide an effective level of fluoride to reduce the incidence of tooth decay while minimizing the rate of fluorosis in the general population.”

The full statement is available here:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ada-applauds-hhs-action-on-recommended-fluoride-level-in-drinking-water-113071524.html>

AWWA will transmit an advisory and statement later today to assist water utilities in communicating with media and customers about the announcement.

Questions? Contact AWWA Public Affairs at (303) 734-3410 or gkail@awwa.org