

What is Community Water Fluoridation?



Fluoride, nature's cavity fighter, is a mineral that occurs naturally on earth. It is released from rocks into the soil, water, and air. All water contains some fluoride. However, the fluoride level in water is usually not enough to prevent tooth decay. Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) is the process of adjusting the amount of fluoride found in public water supplies to achieve optimal prevention of tooth decay.

CWF Health Benefits

- For children: prevents tooth decay
- For adults: supports tooth enamel
- Reduces cavities by 20% to 40%
- Less severe cavities
- Less need for fillings and removing teeth
- Prevents dental disease



CWF Cost Benefits

- For individuals: the lifetime cost of fluoridation is less than the cost of one dental filling
- For communities: every \$1 spent on fluoridation saves \$4 to \$27 in dental treatment costs

CWF benefits everyone. Most importantly, it benefits those without access to regular dental care. CWF is the most efficient, safe and cost-effective way to prevent tooth decay. Residents without CWF experience more dental problems than residents with CWF. This causes both the healthcare system and families in these communities to spend more money on dental appointments, treatment, and emergencies. In addition, residents without CWF are more likely to miss school and work due to preventable dental issues.

Community Water Fluoridation in Louisiana

Currently, there are 1,022 Community Water Systems (CWS) in LA. 48 water systems have 5000+ water connections and are eligible for CWF. 18 of these systems are practicing CWF. 30 of these systems include no fluoride.

CWS with Fluoride

Assumption Parish WW District 1 | City of Bossier City Water System | Shreveport Water System | City of Lake Charles Water System | Calcasieu Parish WW District No 1 | E. Jefferson WW District 1 | Gretna Waterworks | W. Jefferson WW District 2 | Lafourche Water District 1 | Thibodaux Waterworks | Natchitoches Water System | New Orleans Algiers Water Works | New Orleans Carrollton WW | Belle Chasse Water District | St. Charles Water District 1 East Bank | St. Charles Water District 2 West Bank | Houma Water Treatment Service Area | Schriever Water Treatment Service Area

CWS without Fluoride

Beauregard Water Works District #3 | Sulphur City of Water System | City of Baker Water System | Baton Rouge Water Company | City of Zachary Water System | New Iberia Water System (Lawco) | Lafayette Utilities Water System | LPWDN North Region | Ruston Water System | City of Denham Springs Water System | Ward II Water District | Bastrop Water System | Monroe Water System | West Monroe Water System | City of Alexandria Water System | City of Pineville Water System | Rapides Parish Waterworks District 3 | St. Bernard Parish Waterworks | St. John Water District 3 | Minden Water System | Opelousas City Water System | Eunice Water System (LAWCO) | Morgan City Water System | Slidell Water Supply | Tangipahoa Parish Water District | City of Hammond Water System | City of Abbeville Water System | Water Works District #1 of Vermilion | City of Bogalusa Water System



2,111,811

of residents with CWF

2,673,187

of residents without
CWF

44%

% of residents with CWF

56%

% of residents without
CWF

Well-Ahead Louisiana Fluoridation Efforts

Well-Ahead Louisiana promotes and educates communities on the effectiveness of water fluoridation. We hope to continue to increase Community Water Fluoridation throughout Louisiana. Efforts to increase fluoridation are executed through the following activities:

- Frequently giving presentations to water system operators/managers, local municipalities, community and civic organizations highlighting the importance of Community Water Fluoridation
- Performing annual inspections to current fluoridating water systems to ensure safe protocols
- Ensuring systems are adhering to the regulations established in the LAC, Title 78, Subpart 5
- Reporting optimal water levels monthly to the CDC
- Overseeing the CDC Water Fluoridation Quality Award process
- Coordinating the fluoridation work group through the Oral Health Coalition
- Collaborating with Louisiana's Safe Drinking Water Program to secure possible funding
- Seeking additional grant funding opportunities to support CWF efforts
- Continually working to obtain support from state leadership for CWF funding

Accomplishments: Between 2012 and 2015, through Health Resources and Services Administration grant funding, the fluoridation work group was able to contribute to the water fluoridation efforts in two of Louisiana's largest communities.

- In the City of Sulphur, Well-Ahead Louisiana provided \$100,000. These funds were used to purchase the required equipment to re-initiate water fluoridation, resulting in 7,500 residents receiving the benefits of CWF.
- In the City of Gonzales, Well-Ahead Louisiana provided \$90,000. These funds not only provided necessary modifications for two wells in the city, but also initiated fluoridation at a third well, resulting in 10,300 Gonzales residents receiving the benefits of CWF.

In addition, in 2014, 13 Louisiana community water systems received the CDC Water Fluoridation Quality Award from CDC. This award recognizes communities that achieve excellence in CWF by maintaining a consistent level of fluoridated water throughout the year. In 2015, Louisiana's award count increased to 18!

Funding: Act 761 of the Louisiana 2008 Regular Session required LDH to provide funding (when available) to assist communities to initiate water fluoridation. Currently, Well-Ahead Louisiana does not have funding to support this mandate. Well-Ahead continues to seek additional funding opportunities.

Call To Action: Community water fluoridation is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention proclaimed community water fluoridation as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. **Local and state leaders can impact the health of entire communities by making the investment in CWF. Well-Ahead Louisiana is ready to support and guide leaders and water systems through the process of CWF. For more information on how to get involved, contact us at wellahead@la.gov.**

Let's Compare!

Louisiana	
# of water systems in the state	1022
# of naturally fluoridated systems	66
# of fluoridated systems	123
# of optimally fluoridated systems	84
# of residents with fluoridation	2,111,811
# of residents without fluoridation	2,673,187

State	Fluoridation Rank	% Fluoridated
Georgia	6	96.20%
South Carolina	10	93.60%
Mississippi	37	60.00%
Louisiana	45	44.20%
United States		74.40%