



Maine Chapter

Maine Chapter

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November 20, 2006

Robert Sypitkowski, Chair
Bangor Water District
Board of Trustees
614 State Street
Bangor, ME

Dear Mr. Sypitkowski

I am writing in response to the recent public concern around fluoridation of public water supplies. The American Academy of Pediatric and the Maine Chapter of the AAP continue to support the fluoridation of public water supplies as a safe and effective treatment for the prevention of dental caries. This provision of fluoride in controlled doses has greatly improved the oral health of millions of Americans over the last 50 years.

The recent 2006 National Research Council Report on Fluoride in Drinking Water did raise concerns about higher levels of fluoride (above 2 ppm) that may be present in natural sources, such as well water, and urged people to find alternative sources of water to avoid fluorosis in this situation. The levels added to public drinking water are still at accepted safe levels between 0.7 and 1.2ppm. In addition, the ADA did provide guidance on limiting the possible excessive use of fluoridated water for mixing infant formula. Current recommendations for supplemental fluoride already restrict the use of fluoride supplements until after 6 months of age, and this new recommendation provides more specific guidance rather than radically changing our view on fluoride supplementation. The AAP has no concerns, at the present time, with the safety of this level of fluoride in the public water supply for children and adults.

The Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly urges the Board of Trustees and the Bangor City Council to continue providing fluoridated drinking water to the citizens covered by the Bangor Water District. We continue to support the recommendations from the CDC and the ADA regarding use of fluoride. We also support the information provided by Dr. Lisa Howard from the Maine Dental Association in her letter.

Please give every consideration to the above information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald R. Burgess".

Donald R. Burgess, MD, FAAP
President

