

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH
MONTHLY MEETING
June 18, 2025

- I. MEETING – called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair, Monica Standel
- II. MEMBERS PRESENT – Monica Standel Marie Muller, Kevin Watkins, Dawn Fulk, Stephen Smith, Leann Clink, & Carolyn Richards

MEMBERS ABSENT- Robert Fielitz
- III. STAFF PRESENT – Liz King, Greg Brown, Dr. Remington Nevin & Tammie Berger
- IV. CITIZENS -
 - a. Walt Badgerovd, Lexington, MI – Fluoride
 - b. Amiee Nelson - St. Clair, MI – Vaccine waiver law
 - c. Carol Miller, Port Huron, MI - PFAs
 - d. Angie Defrain, Fort Gratiot, MI – Fluoride, vaccine waiver and PFAS
 - e. Letter from Elizabeth Sommerville read by Dawn Fulk.
- V. MINUTES – The Board received the April 2025 meeting minutes. Motion by Faulk, seconded by Clink to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- VI. BUDGET TO ACTUAL & AP TRANSACTION REGISTER - The Board received and reviewed the April 2025 AP Transaction Register for \$172,734.17, May 2025 AP Transaction Register for \$123,420.26. and the April and May Budget to Actual Reports. Motion by Smith, seconded by Muller to accept the April and May 2025 AP Transaction Registers and Budget to Actual Reports to forward to the controller
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE - The Board received the following correspondence for review:
 - a. Thank you card from BW Recovery and Outreach.
 - b. Letter from citizen regarding solar.
 - c. SCCHD quarterly Disease Report
 - d. Open house flyer.
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. By-Laws – Updated mission and vision statement. Motion by Clink and seconded by Richards to accept the update and a date change on the last page. Roll Call vote to accept by-laws and forward to the Board of Commissioners for signature. 6 Ayes; 0 Nyes; Motion Carried.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE – Liz King
 - i. The postings for the Financial Services Manager and the Health Education Manger were fill by promoting current staff.
 - ii. Awaiting State Budget allocation. Currently no changes in staff or programs at this time.

- iii. The tick and mosquito surveillance testing is underway, and with monitoring certain beach waters.
- iv. The move is completed. Slow opening on June 9th. Troubleshooting some HVAC issues. Working on signage. The garage is done, the parking area near the garage will be redone
- v. Liz asked Dr. Nevin if he wanted to discuss HB 4552. This bill is to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled Public health code". Dr. Nevin feels there is widespread support for the bill. This bill would amend the current waiver requirements and remove the ability of the health officer to exclude children from school in the event of an outbreak. Liz commented that at this time the department will continue to follow the administrative rules as written.
- vi. Liz discussed the PFAS finding at Thompson Pond (40th Street Pond). An alert has been made in the Eat Fish Safe guideline. There is no fish from the pond that should be consumed. Liz is expecting that additional testing of wells in the area will be done by EGLE. EGLE contracts with third party, public will receive notices in the mail. A public meeting to provide information and testing results thus far will be held at the August Port Huron Township meeting. There is elevated PFAS level in surface water at the site. EGLE has done some testing upstream. There are a couple of hot spots discovered along Water Street and Range Road. Possible causes are being researched. The State may ask residents for feedback and history on the area to help identify a possible source.
- vii. Dr. Nevin submitted a memorandum on Fluoride late yesterday (June 18). He discussed that a California Judge recently ordered the EPA to do a study and develop a regulation to prohibit the additional of Fluoride. Currently two states have banned the use of fluoride in drinking water. Dr. Nevin feels that a County regulation is needed prohibiting the addition of Fluoride to drinking water. Discussion from some Board members and Liz included concern over another regulation and would prefer to give the municipalities or townships the information for them to hold a hearing and gather information from their areas to determine if they want to consider stopping fluoridation of drinking water. This matter will be tabled until the July meeting.

X. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS -

- a. Richards discussed changing science with regard to fluoride and also commented on vaccine waivers.
- b. Muller commented that she would like to get feedback from local townships and municipalities before considering any regulation on fluoride. Monica also stated that she was going to share the memo with the Village of Capac.
- c. Watkins discussed vaccines.
- d. Fulk discussed vaccines and her attendance at the Michigan for Vaccine Choice event in Lansing.
- e. Richards discussed a possible landfill project concerning the bioreactor and sewage sludge on farmlands. Would like Dr. Nevin to review. Dr. Nevin discussed possibility of another regulation.

- XI. NEXT MEETING –The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting location will be in the Don Dodge Auditorium, 200 Grand River, Port Huron, MI.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Richards, seconded Watkins to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Prepared and submitted by:


Elizabeth King, Health Officer - Director


Monica Standel, Chair


Carolyn Richards, Secretary

Distribution to:

Advisory Board of Health Members

Board of Commissioners

Karry Hepting, Administrator/Controller

Elizabeth King., Health Officer - Director

Greg Brown, Administrator

June 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR: Advisory Board of Health and Liz King, Health Officer
St. Clair County Health Department

FROM: Dr. Remington Nevin, Medical Director, St. Clair County Health Department

SUBJECT: Fluoride in St. Clair County Public Water Systems

As Medical Director of the St. Clair County Health Department, I am recommending to the Health Officer that the Department adopt proactive regulations, as described below, to prohibit the addition of fluoride and certain other additives to public water systems subject to its jurisdiction which provide water to residents of St. Clair County.

This action is being recommended consistent with the requirements of MCL 333.2433(1) that local health departments “diligently endeavor” to prevent and control “health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups”. Per MCL 333.2435 (d) local health departments may “[a]dopt regulations to properly safeguard the public health,” and per MCL 333.2441 may “adopt regulations necessary or appropriate to implement or carry out the duties or functions vested by law in the local health department.”

These recommendations are being made in my role as Medical Director per Michigan Administrative Code R 325.13001(d), “to provide direction [to the local governing entity] in the formulation of medical public health policy and program operation,” and in “advising the administrative health officer on matters related to medical specialty judgments.”

Fluoride is a plausible developmental neurotoxicant, excessive exposure to which, particularly during childhood, evidence now suggests carries a risk of neuropsychiatric adverse effects, including cognitive impairment.

Evidence continues to mount in the peer-reviewed literature of these effects, including in particularly vulnerable population groups. For example, a study published in 2017 found that prenatal fluoride exposure was associated with lower IQ in children ages six to twelve.ⁱ Likewise, a study published in 2019 found that higher maternal urinary fluoride in pregnancy was associated with reduced IQ in boys ages three to four.ⁱⁱ The fluoride exposure levels in these studies were comparable to those found in pregnant women in the United States.ⁱⁱⁱ



Elizabeth King, RN, BSN
Director/Health Officer

Greg Brown, BS
Administrator

Remington Nevin, MD, MPH, DrPH
Medical Director

On August 22, 2024, on the basis of review of these and other studies, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Toxicology Program (NTP) published a report concluding that the majority of the epidemiological studies pertaining to fluoride's impacts on children's IQ found an association between higher levels of fluoride exposure and reduced IQ in children. Specifically, the report concluded, "with moderate confidence, that higher estimated fluoride exposures (e.g., as in approximations of exposure such as drinking water fluoride concentrations that exceed the World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality of 1.5 mg/L of fluoride) are consistently associated with lower IQ in children." ^{iv}

While the report concluded there is currently insufficient data to determine if exposure to fluoride in water alone at 0.7 mg/L has a negative impact on children's IQ, the report also noted that "[a]dditional exposures to fluoride from other sources would increase total fluoride exposure," highlighting a concern that some pregnant women and children may be exposed to higher levels of fluoride due to exposure from multiple sources, including from treated public water, and from fluoride-containing toothpaste, floss, and mouthwash.

Following the NTP report's publication, on September 24, 2024, a U.S. District Court ruled, on the basis of this and other evidence, that public water system fluoridation at a level of 0.7 mg/L poses an unreasonable risk of injury to health under the Amended Toxic Substances Control Act (Amended TSCA),^v requiring that the U.S. EPA ultimately propose and develop regulations to address the identified unreasonable risk. This may involve the U.S. EPA drafting a regulation that could prohibit, restrict, or otherwise control the use of fluoride in public water systems, so as to mitigate the risk to health, including to particularly vulnerable populations groups. Options available to the U.S. EPA in this regard include banning the addition of fluoride to public water systems, limiting its use, or requiring labeling. As noted by the Court in its decision:

"This order does not dictate precisely what that response must be. Amended TSCA leaves that decision in the first instance to the EPA. One thing the EPA cannot do, however, in the face of this Court's finding, is to ignore that risk."

In response to the order, the U.S. EPA has committed to "expeditiously review new scientific information on potential health risks of fluoride in drinking water."^{vi} However, it remains unclear how quickly the EPA will propose and develop the required regulations,^{vii} a process which can take months to years to complete.

Pending this action, in recent months, several jurisdictions across the nation have taken proactive steps to protect their residents from the potential threats to public health posed by the continued addition of fluoride to public water systems. For example, the states of Florida^{viii} and Utah^{ix} have recently prohibited the addition of fluoride or certain other additives to public water systems. Across the Michigan Thumb, several townships have expressed a desire for similar measures, and within St. Clair County, I have received a number of resident concerns related to this issue, ultimately prompting this memorandum.

Consistent with these actions and to address local concerns, I am therefore recommending to the Health Officer that the St. Clair County Health Department adopt local health regulations that provide substantially as follows:

Recommendation (1): Define “water quality additive” as any chemical, additive, or substance that is used in a public water system for the purpose of: (a) meeting or surpassing primary or secondary drinking water standards; (b) preventing, reducing, or removing contaminants; or (c) improving water quality.

Recommendation (2): Prohibit the addition to any public water system, located in whole or in part within St. Clair County and providing water to residents of St. Clair County, of any form of fluoride or any other additive which does not meet the above definition of a “water quality additive.”

Adopting these regulations prior to future federal action on this issue would demonstrate a proactive concern for the health of our local population and its particularly vulnerable groups.

I will welcome the input of the Advisory Board of Health and of concerned residents in the further development and implementation of these recommendations.



Remington Nevin, MD, MPH, DrPH
Medical Director

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- ⁱ Bashash M, Thomas D, Hu H, et al. Prenatal Fluoride Exposure and Cognitive Outcomes in Children at 4 and 6–12 Years of Age in Mexico. *Environ. Health Perspect.* 2017;125(9):097017.
 - ⁱⁱ Green R, Lanphear B, Hornung R, et al. Association Between Maternal Fluoride Exposure During Pregnancy and IQ Scores in Offspring in Canada. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2019;173(10):940.
 - ⁱⁱⁱ Malin AJ, Hu H, Martínez-Mier EA, et al. Urinary fluoride levels and metal co-exposures among pregnant women in Los Angeles, California. *Environ. Health.* 2023;22(1):74.
 - ^{iv} National Toxicology Program. *NTP Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopment and Cognition: A Systematic Review.* National Institute of Environmental Health Science. 2024.
 - ^v U.S. District Court Northern District of California. Food & Water Watch, Inc., et al., v. U.S. EPA. Case No. 17-cv-02162-EMC. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. September 24, 2024.
 - ^{vi} U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA Will Expediently Review New Science on Fluoride in Drinking Water US EPA. April 7, 2025. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-will-expeditiously-review-new-science-fluoride-drinking-water>.
 - ^{vii} Duvall M. Federal Court Orders EPA to Regulate Fluoridation of Drinking Water under TSCA. National Law Review. October 19, 2024. <https://natlawreview.com/article/federal-court-orders-epa-regulate-fluoridation-drinking-water-under-tsca>.
 - ^{viii} Payne K. Florida is poised to become 2nd state to ban fluoride from public water systems. Associated Press. April 29, 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/florida-fluoride-ban-public-water-systems-desantis-74821669626dc478db0aac6c22097f9b>.
 - ^{ix} Brown M, Schoenbaum H. Utah bans fluoride in public drinking water. Associated Press. March 28, 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/utah-fluoride-ban-43f67153beb3e06ada9d782655fb15de>.