ADHA supports new community water fluoridation recommendation

By ADHA Staff

On April 27, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the final Public Health Service (PHS) recommendation for the optimal fluoride level in drinking water to prevent tooth decay. The new recommendation is for a single level of 0.7 milligrams per liter of water.

This updates and replaces the previous recommended range (0.7 to 1.2 milligrams per liter), issued in 1962.

More information
Information for health care providers on how to prevent tooth decay and reduce the chance of developing dental fluorosis may be obtained by visiting www.cdc.gov/fluoridation.

Because it is now possible to receive enough fluoride with slightly lower levels of fluoride in water, HHS developed the new PHS recommendation for community water fluoridation. This change will maintain the protective decay prevention benefits of water fluoridation and reduce the occurrence of dental fluorosis.

“While additional sources of fluoride are more widely used than they were in 1962, the need for community water fluoridation still continues,” said U.S. Deputy Surgeon General Rear Admiral Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH. “Community water fluoridation is effective, inexpensive and does not depend on access or availability of professional services.”

For the past 70 years, communities across the United States have found that fluoride in their public water systems significantly improved their residents’ oral health. Nearly 75 percent of Americans who are served by public water systems receive fluoridated water.

The ADHA is a supporter of community water fluoridation — the ADHA’s Policy Manual states that community water fluoridation is a “safe and effective method for reducing the incidence of dental caries.” In addition, the organization also promotes the “education of the public and other health professionals regarding the preventive and therapeutic benefits of fluoride.”
At the ADHA
For more information on exhibitors, educational sessions and events, pick up the on-site guide or input www.eiseverywhere.com/mobile/mobile/ live/101853 into your mobile phone browser to download the app.

Filled with companies sporting their newest products and technology, all designed to make a hygienist’s job just a little bit easier.

Some of the products you should check out include:

- In booth No. 701, Designs for Vision is offering up the Micro 3 EF Scopes, which reduce the weight of the prismatic telescope by 40 percent while providing an expanded-field, full-oral-cavity view at 3.5x magnification. The scopes are custom manufactured to each person, and the focal length is matched to the individual’s ideal working distance for a true personal experience.

- In booth No. 623, LM-Dental has a line of ergonomic air polishing instruments. The LM-ProPower’s soft silicone handles give you a comfortable, relaxed grip as well as an excellent feel, according to the company.

- In booth No. 505, you can learn about Gumchucks, a unique flossing system that resembles miniature nunchucks. The two-handle system features disposable tips that are connected by a piece of dental floss.

- Finally, in the ADHA/Henry Schein Innovation Center, at the end of the 500 aisle, you can get a look at new technologies, products and equipment that has been introduced to the market within the last 18 months. Participating companies include Crest + Oral-B P&G Professional Oral Health, Dental EZ Group, Henry Schein Dental, OraPharma and Philips ZOOM!