Mississippi Fact Sheet
Community Water Fluoridation and Oral Health

The benefits of having good oral health include:
- Good dental health contributes to general health and well-being across the lifespan.
- Having good oral health reduces complications associated with diabetes, heart disease and stroke, and may reduce the risk for low-birth weight and premature birth.
- Good oral health contributes to higher productivity in the workplace and decreased absenteeism at school.
- Good oral health enhances the pleasure of eating, improves self-esteem, and enhances social interactions.

The benefits of community water fluoridation include:
- Water fluoridation is an effective, safe and inexpensive way to prevent tooth decay.
- Children and adults who are at low risk for tooth decay can stay cavity free through frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride in water.
- Water fluoridation prevents the loss of important minerals from tooth enamel in children and adults, and makes teeth resistant to tooth decay.

Did you know that?
- In Mississippi, 69 percent or about 7 in 10 third-grade children in public schools have experienced tooth decay and 10 percent of children have an urgent need for dental care. [Source: MSDH]
- In Mississippi, 35.1 percent or about 1 in 3 persons aged 65 years of age or older have lost all their natural teeth. [Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)]
- Mississippi ranks 2nd of 50 states for persons aged 65 years or older who have lost some or all of their natural teeth. [Source: CDC]
- Approximately 1.6 million Mississippians receive the benefits of fluoridated water; however, this represents only 54 percent of those on public water systems. In comparison, over 90 percent of the populations of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia receive optimally fluoridated drinking water. [Source: CDC]
- The cities of Columbus, Laurel, Meridian, Newton, Calhoun City, New Albany, and Como implemented water fluoridation programs over 50 years ago. [Source: CDC]
- In Mississippi, the cost of water fluoridation is usually between one and two dollars per person per year and saves $16-$19 per person per year in dental treatment costs. [Source: MSDH/CDC]
- Since February 2004, the following public water systems resolved to fluoridate their water: City of McComb; Town of Port Gibson; Town of Tchula; City of Iuka; Farmington WA; Freeny WA; Cason WA; City of Richland; N. Lauderdale WA; Topisaw Creek WA; City of Picayune; City of Petal; Town of Summit; Greenfield WA; Okatoma WA; Collinsville WA; Combined Utilities; City of Pontotoc; University of Mississippi, Oxford Campus; Town of Maben; Town of Ashland; Prairie Land WA; Town of Guntown; Lebanon WA; Town of Puckett; Quincy WA; Diamondhead Utilities; Southwest Leake WA; City of Nettleton; Town of Baldwyn; Hilton Heights WA; City of Itta Bena; Westwick Utilities; Double Ponds WA; Sunrise Utilities; City of Pascagoula; Glendale Utility District; Hopewell WA; Town of Wesson; Beat III WA; Marydell WA; Town of Ackerman; Central Yazoo WA; Smith’s Crossing WA; Center Ridge WA; Town of Richton; MS Valley State University; Lewisburg WA; Central MS Correctional Facility; City of Hollandale; Southwest Jones WA; ACL WA; North Hinds WA; Lawrence County WA; Lake City WA; Town of Louise; L&F WA; Town of Hatley; City of Raleigh; Rawls Springs Utility District; City of Okolona; Evergreen WA; and Union Church WA, Kossuth WA, New Hope WA, Fisher Ferry Water District, Alcorn State University, Leesburg WA.

Grant funding will be awarded first come, first served as it becomes available and includes equipment, housing, engineering, operator training, and up to one year of fluoride.

For more information, call (601) 576-7500, or visit http://www.HealthyMS.com/dental.

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