Position Statement on Community Water Fluoridation

The Buchanan County Board of Health (BCBOH) has reviewed and discussed the relevant facts on the issue of community water fluoridation (CWF). Subsequent to that review and discussion, the BCBOH has unanimously adopted the position which supports CWF. It is the Board’s conclusion that the science supports the current practice as sound public health policy which protects and preserves the health of citizens. While research and scientific evidence is extensive, the reason for the BCBOH’s statement may be summarized in the following areas:

1) CWF is one of the most practical, cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures communities can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health
2) The safety and benefits of fluoride are well documented and have been reviewed comprehensively by several scientific and public health organizations
3) CWF continues to offer substantial protection against tooth decay beyond that provided by other fluoride products
4) CWF has been shown to save money for both families and the health care system by preventing tooth decay

CWF began nationally over 70 years ago. Today, CWF is still the most cost-effective way to prevent dental caries. It is an ideal public health measure where everyone benefits, whether rich or poor, no matter the age, without requiring any conscious effort of the individual. National surveys of oral health dating back several decades documented the continued benefit of fluoride in decreasing tooth decay in children and adults. It is doubtful that any other public health procedure has undergone more research, epidemiological study, and intense public scrutiny than CWF. The CDC in 1999 recognized CWF as one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the twentieth century. In the recent years, systematic reviews of CWF studies through the Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health in America, CDC’s Recommendations for Using Fluoride to Prevent and Control Dental Caries in the United States, and the Oral Health Report issued by the Task Force on Community Preventative Services have all reinforced the safety and efficacy of fluoridation in preventing dental decay in both children and adults.

Along with the overwhelming majority of the world’s health care organizations and leaders within the scientific community, the Buchanan County Board of Health firmly supports and continues to encourage CWF at concentrations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the most economical and effective means to control the major public health problem of dental caries.

Buchanan County Board of Health Members:
Josh Bowden, DVM Chairman
Inez Kremer, Vice Chairman
Rick McCormick, DO Secretary
Mary Schmitt, RN
Amber Hunt, NHA

Adopted: 02/23/2016