

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**Date:** June 4, 2025

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**From:** Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH, Secretary's Designee

**Subject:** Informational Briefing: Department of Health Fluoride Science Review Update

## Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) has authority under RCW 43.20.050 to adopt rules for Group A public water systems, as defined in RCW 70A.125.010. Chapter 246-290 WAC sets standards for these systems, covering design, construction, sampling, management, maintenance, and operations to protect public health and ensure safe drinking water.

In January 2025, the Board reviewed a rulemaking petition requesting changes to WAC 246-290-220, Drinking Water Materials and Additives, under the Group A Public Water Supplies rules. During the Board meeting, Board staff provided an overview of the existing rule, its scope and intent, and shared policy recommendations developed during a series of 2015 workshops.

Assistant Secretary Lauren Jenks from the Department of Health (Department) also provided background on the Department's ongoing review of emerging science related to fluoride. The Board declined the petition, expressing support for the Department's upcoming technical review and interest in its findings before considering any changes to the drinking water rules.

Since January, the Department's Science Review Panel has met regularly to review technical and scientific information on community water fluoridation. Based on its findings, the panel is developing consensus statements and recommendations for the Board.

I have invited Lauren Jenks, Environmental Public Health Assistant Secretary at the Department of Health, and Molly Dinardo, Board Policy Advisor, to provide a brief overview and update on this work.

This is an informational briefing only. No Board action will be taken regarding this agenda item.

## Staff

Molly Dinardo, Policy Advisor

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