

# Memorandum

**To: Health Care Providers**

**From: Oneida County Health Department – Environmental Health Division**

**Date: August 6, 2007**

**Re: Drinking Water Fluoride Levels in Community Water Systems in Oneida County**

Recently, the Oneida County Health Department has received requests for information related to fluoride in water systems in Oneida County.

Please find attached a summary of fluoride levels in Public Drinking Water Supplies from various Community Water Systems in Oneida County.

As you can see, only three systems currently provide fluoride treatment to the public water supplies. These include the customers of the Mohawk Valley Water Authority, the Village of Clinton, and homes along the perimeter of Oneida Lake (Verona Beach, Sylvan Beach, Hamlet of North Bay, and North Shore Water District) that are served by the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA).

Naturally-occurring fluoride is present in many public and private water supplies throughout Oneida County. Our data seems to suggest a trend indicating areas north of NYS Route 5 have higher levels of fluoride. There may be areas of the county where fluoride levels in private homes may actually exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level of 2.2 mg/l.

This department recommends homeowners on private water supplies collect a sample for and submit it to an ELAP certified laboratory. Costs are expected to be around \$25-35. Many of these laboratories can analyze samples for fluoride, while others contract with approved laboratories. Some of these labs have samplers who will come to the residence and collect the sample for the homeowner for a small convenience charge. For information on local laboratories that can analyze water for fluoride please contact us.

Please note that some of these local laboratories also offer other analyses such as bacteriological, nitrate, nitrite, metals, and volatile and semi-volatile chemicals. In addition to the recommended fluoride analysis, the department recommends all private water supplies be tested at least annually for bacteriological contamination. If homes have infants or pregnant women, nitrate/nitrite levels should be determined. If small children (6 years old and younger) are present in a home, water should be analyzed for lead content. Laboratories can provide homeowners with bottles and sampling procedures.

If you or your patients have questions related to water quality, please feel free to refer them to our environmental health division at 315-798-5064 or 1-800-541-0151 ext. 5064. Our staff may be able to assist with interpretation of results and recommend treatment or other actions based upon the results.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the health of your patients.