

**Mississippi State Department of Health
Community Water Fluoridation Discontinuation
Public Notification (PN #1) Document**

Diamondhead Water & Sewer District

WOULD LIKE TO STOP ADDING FLUORIDE TO ITS DRINKING WATER

The officials of this water system are seeking the discontinuation of their community water fluoridation program. As a customer of this public water system, you have the right to know that this can potentially negatively impact you and your family's health by removing the additional oral health benefits and protection provided by community water fluoridation.

Fluoride occurs naturally in most water sources at varying levels. Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) is the adjustment of the natural fluoride level upwards to the correct amount to prevent tooth decay. The current recommended optimal level of fluoride in drinking water, as set by the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) is 0.7 mg/L. In Mississippi, an optimal operating range of 0.6 – 1.2 mg/L is used to allow for variations in natural fluoride levels and source water chemistry. Drinking or cooking with fluoridated water keeps a low level of fluoride in saliva and dental plaque all day. Fluoride also slows the activity of the bacteria that causes decay and combines with enamel on the tooth surface to make it stronger and better to resist decay. On January 10, 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan became the first city to add fluoride to its drinking water and continues to fluoridate today; as of 2020, approximately 209 million people receive optimally fluoridated water in the United States. CWF has been proven safe by peer-reviewed medical journals and years of practical experience and is supported by all the nation's major health and medical groups, including the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Dental Association (ADA), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Dental caries (cavities), while mostly a preventable disease, remains the most common chronic disease among youth aged 6 – 19 years. Untreated dental disease can lead to serious medical conditions, including development of dangerous and potentially life-threatening infections. Many individuals in Mississippi do not have access to dental products like toothbrush and toothpaste, or access to professional dental care. The CDC has identified Community Water Fluoridation as the most cost-effective method of delivering fluoride to all members of the community regardless of age, educational attainment, or income level.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE REASONS THIS SYSTEM IS SEEKING CWF DISCONTINUATION

1. Cost prohibitive to operate.
2. High repair and replacement costs of equipment.
3. Hazardous chemical handling for personnel.
4. Monopoly of chemical supplier.(one)
5. Non-competitive pricing for chemical supplier and for equipment supplier.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS DECISION:

October 23, 2025 at 4:00pm inside City Hall Council Chambers, 5000 Diamondhead Circle, Diamondhead, MS 39525

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR WATER SYSTEM AT:

Phone: (228)255-5813 **Alt. Phone:** (228)255-5813 **Email:** jhigg@dwsd.us

Helpful Contacts and Links:

MSDH Bureau of Public Water Supply: 601-576-7518

MSDH Office of Oral Health: 601-206-1590

www.ilikemyteeth.org | www.cdc.gov/fluoridation