



News Release

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Public Health Advisory for Port Angeles Water Utility Customers *In the absence of fluoridated water, residents should protect against tooth decay*

OLYMPIA — The Department of Health advises Port Angeles Water Utility customers to seek additional sources of fluoride due to the absence of community water [fluoridation](#).

“Fluoride in water is the most efficient way to prevent tooth decay in people of all ages, education levels, and income levels. Community water fluoridation has been shown to be safe for children and adults,” said Dr. Kathy Lofy, Washington State Health Officer.

On Aug. 3, Port Angeles Water Utility stopped adding fluoride to the drinking water.

In the absence of water fluoridation, individuals and families should consult their dentist or health care provider to discuss their risk for cavities and specific oral health needs.

Fluoridation reduces rates of tooth decay for all ages; however, young children, those without regular dental care, and seniors who often have receding gums or dry mouth are especially impacted when water is not fluoridated.

Community water fluoridation is recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [American Dental Association](#), and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

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