



**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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JOHN J. DREYZEHNER, MD, MPH  
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM  
GOVERNOR

January 16, 2014

Campbell M. Sowell Jr., DDS  
208 W 6th Street  
Columbia, TN 38401

Dear Dr. Sowell:

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Health is to protect, promote, and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee. In advancement of this goal, the Department operates on the fundamental principles of working to protect health in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Preventing and controlling oral disease through community efforts such as community water fluoridation is one such key health protection.

Unfortunately, the access to fluoride in tap water has recently been removed in one of the communities you serve, Columbia, Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Health fully supports and endorses community water fluoridation, at optimal levels of .7 parts per million, in public water systems in Tennessee. Because of the recent vote by the Columbia Power and Water to discontinue water fluoridation, you may be currently treating or have the opportunity in the future to treat some of the individuals affected by this decision.

Based upon decay risk and the level of naturally occurring fluoride in the water, fluoride supplementation should be a consideration for children 6 months to 16 years of age on non-fluoridated community systems. The American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatric Dentists, and the American Academy of Pediatrics jointly established guidance on fluoride supplementation for children and the information is available on their respective websites.

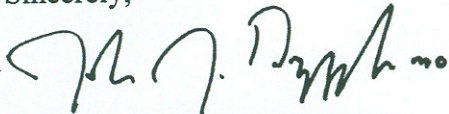
Prior to supplementation, the level of naturally occurring fluoride of the child's primary drinking water must be determined. If the child is on a community water system, the local water system can provide the level of naturally occurring fluoride. The level of naturally occurring fluoride for citizens served by Columbia Power and Water is .1ppm. If on a well system, the local water system or Craig LaFever at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation at 615-532-0181 can provide information concerning testing options available.

5th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower  
710 James Robertson Parkway \* Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 741-3111 \* [www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health)



"Tooth decay or 'dental caries' is the most common infectious disease among our children and it is preventable." The Tennessee Department of Health believes that a healthy smile is essential to both overall health and future economic opportunity for Tennessee's precious children and looks forward to working with you toward that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Dreyzehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

John J. Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM  
Commissioner

JJD/SH/pl/kh