

Circular Letter #2026- 14

TO: Public Water Systems Subject to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-38

FROM: Lisa Michelle Morrissey, MPH, Deputy Commissioner

DATE: July 20, 2026

Subject: Fluoridation Chemical Supply Shortage

The Department of Public Health is aware that a national shortage of hydrofluorosilicic acid and related fluoridation chemicals, resulting from disruptions to global supply chains, is affecting the ability of some Connecticut public water systems to maintain required fluoridation levels. Several systems have reported to the Drinking Water Section that their supply is exhausted or is projected to last fewer than 30 days. This memorandum states the Department's position for the duration of the supply disruption.

Statutory Requirement

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-38 requires a water company, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 25-32a, to add fluoride to any water system it owns and operates that serves 20,000 or more persons, so as to maintain an average monthly fluoride content of 0.7 mg/L, deviating no more than 0.15 mg/L above or below that level. The Department has no authority to waive this requirement or to alter the required levels. The statute remains in full effect, and this memorandum does not relieve any system of its legal obligation to fluoridate.

Department Enforcement Position

The Department recognizes that a system cannot procure a chemical that is unavailable on the market. Accordingly, until October 30, 2026, the Department will not initiate enforcement action under § 19a-38 against a system that is unable to maintain the required fluoride levels because of the shortage.

Any system that believes it will not be able to comply with this requirement should notify the Drinking Water Section in writing as soon as possible.

This position applies only to the current supply disruption and may be modified or withdrawn at any time. A system whose inability to fluoridate is attributable to causes other than the supply shortage remains subject to enforcement.

Dose Reduction

The Department encourages systems that retain partial supply to reduce fluoride dosing in order to extend that supply, rather than ceasing fluoridation abruptly. Major water systems in Maryland and Pennsylvania have taken this approach, reducing dosing from 0.7 mg/L to 0.4 mg/L to maintain consistent fluoridation through the disruption. Any change in dosing should be implemented under the direction of your certified operator. Routine fluoride monitoring and reporting requirements continue to apply, and systems should report actual measured levels.

Questions

Questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to Chris Roy, Drinking Water Section Chief at (860) 509-7333 or dwdcompliance@ct.gov. The Department will continue to monitor the national supply situation and will communicate further guidance as conditions change.