



# ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**JEN METZGER**

*County Executive*

**EVE WALTER, PhD**

*Public Health Director*

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To the Kingston Common Council:

On April 14, 2024, the New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald issued a statement on the health benefits of water fluoridation. In it he states, “the U.S. Public Health Service recommends a fluoride concentration of 0.7 parts per million in drinking water, equivalent to three drops in a 55-gallon drum; this is a safe and effective level carefully chosen and monitored to prevent cavities. Those New York State water systems that are fluoridated provide this safe level of fluoride.” Further, the Commissioner adds, “because the fluoridated water supply reaches everyone equally, health disparities decrease, as we know not everyone has access to regular dentist checkups.”

As the Public Health Director of Ulster County’s Department of Health, I encourage the exploration of a feasibility study for the fluoridation of Kingston’s municipal water supply supporting its capacity to seek state grant funding to cover the cost of system upgrades and engineering assessments.

Regards,

Eve Walter, PhD

Public Health Director

Ulster County Department of Health