



Request for the BOS to provide evidence proving swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus

Bryan Moss

Tue, Mar 3, 2020

To: selectmen@shrewsburyma.gov

Cc: Kevin Mizikar <kmizikar@shrewsburyma.gov>, drowley@shrewsburyma.gov, Valerie Clemmey <vclemmey@shrewsburyma.gov>

Dear Board of Selectmen (Water Commissioners),

Please include this email under the correspondence section of the BOS 03/10/20 Agenda.

In response to a request I had made to the BOH to ask the MDPH and the Worcester Medical Director for evidence proving that swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus (see the forwarded Jan 22nd email below), the BOH voted 2-1 to not ask for the evidence from the MDPH that proves swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus. One BOH member (with a Masters in Public Health) wanted to see the evidence that it was safe; however, her inquiry was blocked by the other two members. That vote flies in the face of transparency in government. Please watch my presentation and the BOH's discussion & vote.

BOH 022820 Meeting - Fluoride (27 min)

<https://youtu.be/jMJTWKbw1Xg>

In previous discussions, the BOH has critiqued and highlighted limitations of the two new studies showing a link between pregnant women swallowing fluoride and lower IQ in their children. However, when challenged to produce one "randomized, placebo-controlled" clinical trial to scientifically prove it is safe for pregnant women to swallow fluoride, the BOH is unable to do so. So that is two peer-reviewed US Government studies identifying a link to harm to the fetus, and zero placebo-controlled clinical trials proving it is safe for the fetus.

As proven with supporting evidence in my email to the BOS on March 1st, the BOS continues to have oversight responsibility for adding fluoride to the water in Shrewsbury; therefore, you have the responsibility to provide evidence that swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus.

Based on the spirit of the Water Department's October PFAS notice which stated "Out of an abundance of caution and given our commitment to keep you informed", **I am requesting that the Water Commissioners request the information (as detailed in my Jan 22nd email below) from the WDPH.** Please note that there is precedence for the BOS/Town Manager to request information directly from the WDPH (and not through the BOH) like the request for information that was done in relation to Artificial Turf concerns in 2017.

If you are so certain swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus, then why not just ask for the evidence that it is safe? I even challenged the BOH that if they provided me with the "randomized, placebo-controlled" clinical trials proving swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus, I would go away, and they still refused to even ask for the evidence.

I hope that the BOS will be up for the challenge and be on the side of 'government transparency' given its continued communications to the community highlighting the Water Commissioners' (aka BOS's) commitment to using an abundance of caution and keeping us informed.

Thank you,
Bryan Moss
Town Meeting Member, Precinct 8

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bryan Moss**

Date: Wed, Jan 22, 2020

Subject: Re: Request for town to notify pregnant women about the latest study on fluoride's link to reduced IQ in children

To: Kerry Stockwell <kstockwell@shrewsburyma.gov>, Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, George Abraham

Cc: Kevin Mizikar <kmizikar@shrewsburyma.gov>

Dear Board of Health,

In your last meeting you had asked the Worcester Department of Public Health (WDPH) to reach out to the Worcester Medical Director and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) for additional information.

I am requesting the Shrewsbury Board of Health specifically request the following information from the WDPH:

- Please ask the MDPH and Worcester Medical Director to provide the Shrewsbury Board of Health with the scientific evidence that they believe proves their claim that swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus.
- Please ask the MDPH and Worcester Medical Director to provide the Shrewsbury Board of Health with the "randomized, placebo-controlled" clinical trials that prove that swallowing fluoride is safe for pregnant women and their fetus.
- Please ask the MDPH and Worcester Medical Director to provide the Shrewsbury Board of Health with the "randomized, placebo-controlled" clinical trials that prove that swallowing fluoride is safe for any population group.

Here is a NIH page describing how placebos in clinical trials are the "gold standard" in science for determining whether or not a treatment is safe and effective.

- <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/placebos-clinical-trials>

I would ask the Shrewsbury Board of Health notify residents of the new US Government funded peer-reviewed studies related to swallowing fluoride during pregnancy and its link to reduced IQ in children unless the MDPH and Worcester Medical Director can provide you with the "randomized, placebo-controlled" clinical trials that prove swallowing fluoride is safe for sensitive water consumers such as pregnant women and their fetus.

I am also requesting 10 minutes of time on the next Board of Health meeting agenda to discuss the topic of evidence of safety versus the evidence of harm and how that relates to the Shrewsbury Board of Health's role in the fluoridation topic in the town of Shrewsbury.

Thank you,
Bryan Moss