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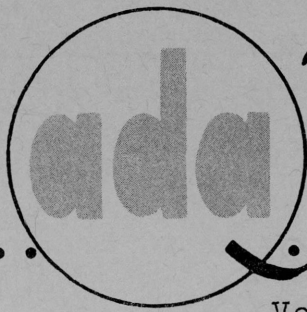


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News Letter

Vol. 8, No. 20 -- Oct. 1, 1955

BULLETIN

ST. LOUIS BEGINS FLUORIDATION PROGRAM FOR ITS 868,500 RESIDENTS--
NUMBER OF PERSONS RECEIVING FLUORIDATED WATER NOW TOPS 22 MILLION

St. Louis residents are now drinking fluoridated water. The addition of a controlled amount of fluorides to the city's water supplies was started at one of the city's two pumping stations on Sept. 28 and at the other station on Sept. 29, according to an announcement by Dr. J. Earl Smith, St. Louis health commissioner.

St. Louis, with a population of 868,500, is the nation's eighth largest city and is the third largest city in the U.S. to fluoridate its water supply. Larger cities with fluoridation in operation are Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The launching of fluoridation in St. Louis climaxed a long campaign in behalf of the measure by the St. Louis Dental and Medical Societies and a host of civic groups.

Commissioner Smith hailed fluoridation as "one of the truly great public health measures of the twentieth century."

One reason given for the delay in starting fluoridation after it had been approved by the St. Louis Board of Aldermen nearly a year ago was the scarcity of fluoride compounds.

Conway B. Briscoe, director of public utilities, reported that the city had been able to secure only a limited supply of the necessary chemicals because of the heavy demand from cities with fluoridation programs now in operation.

According to records of the Council on Dental Health of the American Dental Association, St. Louis is the 1,115th community in the nation to have fluoridation in operation. Currently, fluoridation is serving nearly 22,093,955 persons in the nation, Council records show.

As fluoridation began in St. Louis, the Ohio Supreme Court (on Sept. 29) again issued a pro-fluoridation ruling. The court refused to reconsider its earlier decision upholding the right of the city of Cleveland to fluoridate its water supply.