

# MINISTERSTVO ZDRAVOTNICTVÍ ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

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Mr and Mrs  
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Vaše zn.:

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V Praze dne 14.10.99

Vyřizuje : RNDr. B.Havlík, DrSc.

Dear Sir and Madam,

We received your letter with regards to the drinking water fluoridation. In the Czech Republic, fluoridation of drinking water was gradually introduced from 1958 y. onwards on the recommendation of the Hygiene Service. During the peak of the fluoridation programme in the mid- 1980' almost one third of the population was supplied with fluoride- treated water.

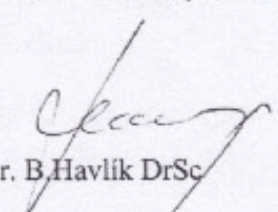
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- However, the second half of the 1980's saw an intensive debate in scientific circles regarding the acceptability , effectivity and safety of fluoridation. Although this debate reached no conclusive decision, it contributed to the fact, that after 1989 the newly privatised water
  - suppliers began to phase out fluoridation for economic and indeed technical reasons ( there were frequent problems with correct dosing and biological active speciation of fluor); the
  - health authorities had no objection to this new approach.

Since 1993, drinking water has not been treated with fluoride in public water supplies throughout the Czech Republic. Although fluoridation of drinking water has not actually been proscribed it is not under consideration because this form of supplementation is considered :

- uneconomical ( only 0.,54 % of water suitable for drinking is used as such; the remainder is employed for hygiene etc. Furthermore, an increasing amount of consumers (particularly children) are using bottled water for drinking ( underground water usually with fluor)
- unecological (environmental load by a foreign substance)
- unethical („forced medication“)
- toxicologically and physiologically debateble (fluoridation represents an untargeted form of supplementation which disregards actual individual intake and requirements and may lead to excessive health- threatenning intake in certain population groups; complexation of fluor in water into non biological effective forms of fluor)

? For preventive purposes current policy recommends use of NaF tablets for children when required and deemed necessary by paediatricians and dentists. In addition, a wide variety of commercial products are available such toothpaste with fluoride, natural minerals waters, certain fluoride-supplemented food products etc.

Yours faithfully

  
Dr. B.Havlík DrSc

Copy; to your letter from November 14th 1999.