



May 2, 2025

Friends,

Last week, operators at the City of Richmond Water Treatment Plant unintentionally and temporarily added excess fluoride into the public water system. This error— and the broader pattern of system breakdowns, including the January water outage— threaten to erode trust in Richmond’s public drinking water and community water fluoridation, one of our country’s greatest public health achievements.

It also underscores the urgent need for state and local policymakers to invest in Virginia’s drinking water systems. Aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and inadequate training compromise the ability to effectively and reliably manage these essential public services. Investing these funds is crucial to prevent future errors and to ensure the continued delivery of safe, fluoridated drinking water.

Virginia Health Catalyst is committed to ensuring all Virginians have access to safe, fluoridated drinking water that they can trust. However, that trust must be earned. We look forward to working with policymakers to address these challenges and build trust through robust and sustained investment in all Virginia’s drinking water systems.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sarah".

Sarah Bedard Holland
CEO

Want to learn more about community water fluoridation and how it keeps Virginians’ healthy? Read our statement on CWF [here](#).