FDA and RFK Jr. aim to remove ingestible fluoride products used to protect kids' teeth

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health regulators announced plans Tuesday to phase out ingestible fluoride supplements sometimes used to strengthen children's teeth, opening a new front in Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s effort against a mainstay of dental care.

The Food and Drug Administration said it will conduct a scientific review of the children's products by late October with the aim of removing them from the market. It was not immediately clear whether the agency planned to formally ban the supplements or simply request that companies withdraw them.

The products targeted by the FDA are sometimes recommended for children and teens at increased risk of tooth decay or cavities because of low fluoride in their local drinking water. They usually require a prescription from a pediatrician or dentist. Fluoride-based tablets and lozenges are designed to be chewed or swallowed. Companies also sell drops for babies.

FDA Commissioner Marty Makary said the products pose a risk when swallowed because they may interfere with healthy gut bacteria that are critical to digestion, immunity and other key bodily functions. He also referenced studies showing possible associations between excess fluoride intake and other problems, including decreased IQ.

Previous reviews by public health experts and dental professionals have not shown any serious health risks with the products.

As state and local governments begin removing fluoride from their water, the need for supplemental fluoride is expected to grow.

Officials in Utah — the first U.S. state to ban fluoride from drinking water — recently made fluoride supplements available without a prescription.

Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by replacing minerals lost during normal wear and tear, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1962, the agency set guidelines for how much should be added to water.

Kennedy, a former environmental lawyer, has called fluoride a "dangerous neurotoxin" tied to a range of health dangers. Last month, he announced a task force to scrutinize fluoride's use, while at the same time saying he would order the CDC to stop recommending that it be added to tap water.

A report last year by the federal government's National Toxicology Program concluded that drinking water with more than twice the CDC's recommended level was associated with lower IQs in kids. The study was based on research conducted in Canada, China, India, Iran, Pakistan and Mexico.

"Ending the use of ingestible fluoride is long overdue," Kennedy said in a statement Tuesday. "This decision brings us one step closer to delivering on President Trump's promise to Make America Healthy Again."

An influential government health panel recommends fluoride supplements for children between the ages of six months and 5 years if they live in areas with low fluoridation levels. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Forces judged the recommendation to have "high certainty," based on the available evidence.

A 2010 paper from the American Dental Association recommended supplemental fluoride for children up to 16 years old who are at high risk of cavities. The recommendation was based on a review of studies across different age groups. The most common side effect associated with the products is spotting or discoloration of the teeth, caused by extra fluoride.

The ADA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The FDA regulates most dental products, including fluoride-containing toothpastes, supplements, mouthwashes and rinses. But in Tuesday's press release, the FDA said the ingestible products targeted by the agency have "never been approved." Its plan wouldn't affect toothpastes, mouthwash or fluoride treatments used by adults or offered in dentists' offices.

In recent weeks fluoride-containing products have increasingly been targeted with lawsuits and legal actions.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced an investigation into the marketing of fluoride toothpastes by Colgate-Palmolive and Proctor and Gamble. A press release from his office described the companies' promotions as "misleading, deceptive and dangerous."

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Kubota

Stop in today to demo the do-it-all Kubota M Series tractors.

- Powerful and efficient engines
- Ergonomic design for all-day comfort
- Bevel-gear front axle maximizes maneuverability
- Kubota designed and built front loaders

Together we do more.®

First Choice Farm and Lawn
3350 Highway 45 North
Mayfield, KY 42066
270-856-4355

KubotaUSA.com

© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2022. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your local dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com.

2KBB03711_M_Port_Q1_0103

ONLINE AUCTION
ENDS MONDAY, MAY 19th @ 6 PM (CDT)
BOOONVILLE, INDIANA
To view and bid go to "dasonlineauctions.hibid.com"

LOCATION: DAS will be having an Online auction at 1444 North White Rd, Boonville, Indiana just East of Degonia Springs. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

PREVIEW:
Sunday, May 18th • 1-3 PM (CDT)

SCAG 61" ZERO TURN W/80 HRS; EVER RIDE 60" ZERO TURN MOWER; 2024 JOHN DEERE S140 RIDING MOWER W/ 5 HRS; 6X10 TRAILER; HIGH QUALITY FURNITURE & PICTURES; RUGS; STAR WARS; CHRISTMAS DÉCOR; GOLF PICTURES & LAMPS; VINTAGE COLLECTIBLES & TOOLS; WAGON WHEELS; SANDSTONE; ESKA FARMALL PEDAL TRACTOR; CAST IRON; SHOP TOOLS; APPLIANCES; TOYS; PORTABLE COOLING UNITS; LAWN & GARDEN; TOOLS; ANTIQUE FURNITURE; COLLECTIBLES; & MORE

To view and bid go to "dasonlineauctions.hibid.com"

TERMS: Pick up time is Tuesday, May 20th from 10AM to 5PM. Cash, check, and or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium & 7% sales tax will be charged for this consignment online auction. Shipping is not available. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

Dimmett Auction Service & Realty
(812) 897-1747
1444 White Road • Boonville IN 47601
www.dimmettauctionservice.com
Robert E. Dimmett
Owner/Auctioneer
Lic #AU09200240

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Kentucky Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on, Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time (8:00 AM Central Daylight Time), in the cases of, In the Matter of: An Electronic Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Big Rivers Electric Corporation from November 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 - Case No. 2024-00141 and In the Matter of: An Electronic Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Big Rivers Electric Corporation from May 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023 - Case No. 2024-00149, for the purpose of cross-examination of witnesses. The hearing will be held in the Richard Raff Hearing Room (Hearing Room 1) of the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky. This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, www.psc.ky.gov. Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, www.psc.ky.gov.