



**World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry**

世界无汞牙科联盟

**Alianza Mundial por una Odontología Sin Mercurio**

التحالف العالمي لطب أسنان خال من الزئبق

**Alliance Mondiale pour une Dentisterie Sans Mercure**

Всемирный альянс за стоматологию без ртути

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### **Will you help protect UK children from mercury fillings?**

Dear Friends,

In a major step forward, we now have an EU-wide regulation protecting children from the risks of mercury-containing dental amalgam fillings:

“From 1 July 2018, dental amalgam shall not be used for dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of children under 15 years and of pregnant or breastfeeding women, except when deemed strictly necessary by the dental practitioner based on the specific medical needs of the patient.”

The good news is the UK government is developing a guidance document to help dentists implement this new EU regulation.

The bad news is not all dentists want to protect children from mercury-containing amalgam. In fact, the British Dental Association (BDA) is already attempting to widen the regulation's very narrow medical exemption: “Where there are medical or dental reasons to justify the choice, the practitioner will retain the option to use amalgam” – even in children, whose developing brains are most susceptible to the neurotoxic effects of mercury.

So we need to make sure the UK guidance document is clear: Amalgam has no place in children!

Will you please add your name to the sign-on letter below to our government officials? Just reply to this email with your name and city, like this if you are in the UK:

John Doe, London

Then, I will add your name to the final letter and send it to our government officials at DEFRA, who are charged with overseeing the mercury regulation.

Please forward this email to anyone else in the UK who would like to help us protect the next generation from this unnecessary exposure to mercury.

We will keep you informed of our progress. If you do not want to be involved with this issue just do not reply to this email and we will not contact you again.

Thank you for speaking out for our nation's children!

Graeme Munro-Hall

### ***Sign-On Letter to DEFRA***

*Subject: UK-wide guidance on dental amalgam ban for children*

*Dear DEFRA officials:*

*As UK citizens and dental patients, we strongly support the new EU mercury regulation banning amalgam use in children under age 15, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. But we are concerned that some UK dentists will ignore this law. Therefore, in the UK-wide guidance for dentists, we urge you to*

- (1) Require dentists – who have not done the needed medical training or examinations – to document consulting with the patient's physician as to whether amalgam use is "strictly necessary" based on the "specific medical needs of the patient"*
- (2) Require dentists to obtain written informed consent from patients or parents, to include making them aware of the mercury regulation prohibiting amalgam use in deciduous teeth, children under 15 years, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers – and explaining why they are singled out for an exemption*
- (3) Require dentists to report any amalgam use in deciduous teeth, children under 15 years, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers to the relevant government agency in order to prevent abuse, expose gaps in training, and ensure enforcement*

*We know that mercury-containing amalgam is never "strictly necessary" for patients – only for dentists who need to learn to use modern, mercury-free fillings.*

*Sincerely,*

