

# When Drinking Water Became Safer: *The Chlorine Revolution* Public Health Webinar Series

"Imagine living in a world without chlorine disinfection of drinking water. It would be a scary place. You would have no idea when a dreaded disease might strike you down or strike down your children or other family members. This is the world that everyone in the U.S. lived in at the turn of the twentieth century."<sup>1</sup> The introduction of continuous chlorine disinfection to the Jersey City, New Jersey, water supply on September 26, 1908, quickly cut the local death rate from typhoid fever in half, and ultimately was reduced to zero nationally.



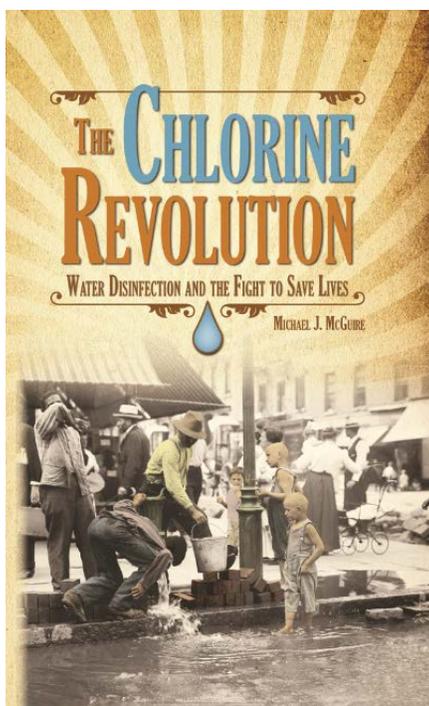
How did the decision to disinfect the first U.S. public water supply come about, and how was it possible for hundreds of U.S. cities adopt chlorination in just a few years?



U.S. Death Rates for Typhoid Fever

The [Chlorine Chemistry Division](#) of the American Chemistry Council is pleased to announce continued support for public health webinars by Dr. Michael J. McGuire, the award-winning author of *The Chlorine Revolution: Water Disinfection and the Fight to Save Lives*. Published by the American Water Works Association, Dr. McGuire's book details the events leading to the first continuous use of chlorine (at less than one part per million), which, in conjunction with water filtration, revolutionized the treatment of drinking water in the United States. It also highlights the courage and perseverance of a still largely unknown New Jersey physician whose tireless efforts to improve public health changed the world.

Each one-hour webinar features a live overview of the book by Dr. McGuire and an extended Q&A session. Up to 100 registered webinar participants will receive a free copy of *The Chlorine Revolution*.



*We received nothing but positive feedback...Dr. McGuire's informative (and witty) delivery of the material, and the smooth execution of the webinar. Well done!*  
– Dr. Joanne McGriff – Emory University

*Dr. McGuire is a dynamic speaker who was able to integrate the technical details of water treatment processes into a highly entertaining story about how the water treatment industry was transformed almost overnight.* – Dr. John Tracy – Texas A&M University

*Chlorine disinfection's massive impact on public health is difficult to articulate to students. Dr. McGuire's webinar engaged students by speaking directly to this public health history...I'm thankful that my class had the opportunity to participate in this important webinar* – Dr. Joe Goodwill – University of Rhode Island

For further information, or to schedule a Chlorine Revolution webinar, please contact Mark Gibson at (202) 249-6739 or email at [mark\\_gibson@americanchemistry.com](mailto:mark_gibson@americanchemistry.com).

<sup>1</sup> Foreword by Michael J. McGuire to Drinking Water Chlorination: A Review of U.S. Disinfection Practices and Issues. 2016. Available at <https://chlorine.americanchemistry.com/Chlorine-Benefits/Safe-Water/Disinfection-Practices.pdf>.