



Dear Faculty and Staff,

We are excited that your school is participating in the preventive dental program provided by the Oral Health Services division of the Knox County Health Department. Our program has three objectives:

The first objective of our program is dental education. Each student that has signed up to participate in our dental health program will have the opportunity to use an iPad and view a selection of dental education videos while they are waiting to be seen by the hygienist for sealants. When the student sits in the dental chair, we will then tailor that information to his or her own personal needs and try to help that student achieve his or her maximum potential in oral health. Each student participating in our program will be given a bag to take home with a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss. Parents desiring their child to be eligible for the free dental sealants **MUST** return a completed permission form that was sent home on the first day of school with other important paperwork. If additional forms are needed, parents may contact your school secretary, school nurse, or visit our website.

The second objective is to identify those children who are in need of urgent or immediate dental treatment. This is accomplished through a dental sealant screening by the hygienist. A "mini dental office" will be set up in your school to do sealant screenings, sealants, and fluoride for students with signed permission forms. Since tooth decay is **the most common disease of childhood**, we strive to screen and place sealants on all students in your school, if needed. However, students who DID NOT return a permission form are not eligible for the screening, sealants, and fluoride through the school-based dental sealant program.

The final objective is treatment and prevention. Parents of students with **urgent need** for dental treatment are notified and **referred** for treatment. We also ask your school nurse to follow up at a later date with those parents. We have added a new component to our program this year. It is called *silver diamine fluoride* (SDF); SDF is a clear liquid of silver nitrate and fluoride. It is placed on a cavity to halt tooth decay. A second permission form signed by a parent/guardian is required for this new treatment provided at school. We recently met with Knox County school nurses to share this new SDF information.

Once the sealant project begins, it may take approximately one to three weeks to complete the project for your students, depending on the number of forms returned, available space, and the number of hygienists who can be placed within the school. The sealant procedure takes about 20-30 minutes per child. We would prefer to have 4-6 children sent at a time. However, we will try to be flexible if this is inconvenient for a particular class. We appreciate your support and assistance in this area.

We look forward to providing these important preventive dental services at your school. Thank you for sharing your facilities and time with us for the improvement of your students' dental health. Please check out our website for more information.

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www.knoxcounty.org/health/schooldentalprogram