

School-Based Dental Sealant Program in Broward County

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How does the program work?

A. Professional, highly trained registered dental hygienists bring portable dental equipment to your school and set up in an assigned area. The hygienists assess any decayed, missing and filled teeth. They clean the teeth, apply a dental sealant on all healthy permanent molars and apply a fluoride varnish. We will never ask or force any child to do anything they are unwilling to participate in.

Q. Do Department hygienists treat children they have already treated?

A. Yes. When hygienists see children they have treated in the past, they check the retention of the past dental sealants and see if there is new decay.

Q. When will the dental team arrive?

A. The dates scheduled are estimated. We will call the school on the day before, and it may be within a day or so of the original chosen date based on the efficiency of the previous school.

Q. How many days will the Department be at the school?

A. This is based on the total number of completed consent forms returned to Department of Health in Broward County. The average is 4-5 days.

Q. Will the Department treat special needs children?

A. Yes. Our teams of licensed Dental Hygienists are well trained in many in many aspects of health care. They will be able to see any child with any cleared condition.

Q. What about children with allergies or medical complications?

A. All medical forms are screened and cleared by a Florida Department of Health physician. If a child has a condition where dental treatment is not indicated, we will not see the child in the school setting.

Q. Do the children get anything for participating?

A. Yes, all children who participate will get a bag containing a new toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, a timer and an educational book. At the end of their visit, the child can choose their favorite character off the sticker board.

Q. Will the parent or school be billed?

A. No. There will never be a bill sent to any parent, caregiver or school.

Q. Can the students eat and drink after this visit?

A. Yes, the material we use allows for immediate eating and drinking.

Q. What happens if the examination finds tooth decay?

A. If a child has a suspicious area of possible decay, we will alert the parent in the letter mailed home. If there is an urgent need, such as an infection, pain or swelling, we will alert the principal and call the parent. There will always be a follow-up letter mailed home to the parents of every child treated.