



# SCHOOL-BASED SEALANT PROGRAM

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REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST

LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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# LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SCHOOL-BASED TELEDENTISTRY/SEALANT PROGRAM

- ▶ **WHAT WE DO:** 1-2 Registered Dental Hygienists travel to schools in and surrounding Lincoln County to provide preventative dental services to students.
- ▶ The services provided include:
  - ▶ PSP screenings
  - ▶ Dental assessments (Includes radiographs and intra oral photos)
  - ▶ Prophylaxis
  - ▶ Fluoride varnish application
  - ▶ Dental sealants
- ▶ Any student that is signed up for a dental exam, prophylaxis, or sealants requires an exam by our contracted dentist. This is a remote, asynchronous teledentistry exam. If only signed up for fluoride/PSP screening, no exam is necessary.



**FOLLOW UP/REFERRALS:** Any students diagnosed by the dentist with conditions requiring treatment (decay, abscess, etc.) are either scheduled in our clinic for treatment or given referrals to local dental providers/their dentist of record.



Operating expenses are offset by submitting insurance claims (when possible) for those who provide us with their insurance information. No family ever pays out of pocket expenses for any of the school-based services we provide.

# EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Our portable program equipment includes:

Portable delivery unit, portable handheld x-ray machine with digital sensors, intraoral camera, portable/folding patient chair, operator chair, capsule mixer/amalgamator, cloud-based software with laptop, mobile hotspot.



- ▶ Transport equipment in rolling carts, hauling with truck and enclosed cargo trailer.
- ▶ Set up in various school locations; Classroom, gym, conference room, hallways.



# SEALANT MATERIAL USED



- ▶ GC Fuji TRIAGE - A radiopaque glass ionomer. Self-bonding- no etching, bonding agent, or isolation required. \*Use of cavity or dentin conditioner aids in additional retention. 10 second mixing time, 1 minute 40 second working time, full setting time of 2 minutes 40 seconds.
- ▶ Good product for mobile dental services due to the ability to be placed in a moist field; we are placing sealants without any assistance, often on wiggly kids who may have a hard time staying open.

# PREPARING FOR SCHOOL EVENT

- ▶ Primary point of contact/coordination is typically with the school nurse.
- ▶ Permission forms and information are given to the schools at the beginning of the school year, and again when we are closer to beginning in their school. We also provide a Facebook post and link for them to distribute on their Facebook page.
- ▶ Duties needed of the nurse/and or school staff:
  - Distribute permission forms, collect and return to LCHD (online forms completed by guardians are sent directly to our clinic).
  - Arrange for a space to be used by out dental team.\*\*\*Highly recommend performing a site visit prior to starting in schools.
  - Bring/send students from class to event.



# APPOINTMENT PROCESS

# VISIT 1: ASSESSMENT

- Oral screening/assessment is performed; Any suspicious lesions or conditions are noted by hygienist.
- Radiographs and intraoral photos obtained.
- Oral hygiene instructions and nutritional counseling given.
- Take home sheet sent home with student notating any potential concerns/and or the need to follow up with dentist.
- Guardian is contacted via phone call after the dentist has completed the exam to go over the findings and recommendations given. Arrange for any restorative/follow up care outside of the services completed at the school (either with scheduling in our clinic or referring to local dental offices).



## VISIT 2: PREVENTATIVE TREATMENT

- ▶ Prophylaxis, sealants, fluoride varnish completed.
- ▶ Additional take home sheet notating services completed that day/any new concerns.
- ▶ Guardians are again contacted to inform of services completed and to follow up on any recommendations.



# CHALLENGES

- ▶ Incomplete/incorrectly filled out paperwork completed by parents or guardians.
- ▶ Mobile internet hot spot is not always reliable in rural areas.
- ▶ Scheduling around school events and breaks, delays due to snow days, etc. Flu, COVID, illness related outbreaks.
- ▶ Set up/break down of equipment is sometimes necessary more frequently if space needs to be used by school.
- ▶ For students that have heavy calculus, we may not be able to provide prophylaxis in school setting.

# BENEFITS OF SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

Less school missed with school-based preventative services

Families do not have to take off work for appointments

No need to arrange for transportation

The ability to work closely with school nurses for those students who may be frequently seen for tooth-related pain

The ability to provide preventative services at zero out of pocket costs to families



# THE "WHY"

# CAUSES OF ORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

Lack of resources/access to care



Lack of transportation



Financial limitations



Limited oral health education

# CLOSING/ QUESTIONS