

Dear Parent/Guardian:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Oral health staff will soon be visiting your child's school to provide free dental health screenings. All students in **grades JK, SK, 2 & 8** will receive a dental screening. Children with urgent dental conditions may be rescreened later in the year to confirm treatment has been completed. Children, who had dental sealants placed by the Health Unit the previous year, have outstanding urgent needs, or whose parent requests they be screened will also be seen.

Why does the Health Unit provide dental screening?

- Dental screening programs are part of the Ontario Public Health Standards and the *Health Promotions and Protection Act*.
- The oral health of the children in Simcoe Muskoka District is measured through data collected from the dental screenings.
- You will be notified if your child has a dental problem or would benefit from preventive services such as scaling, topical fluoride or sealants.
- If the cost of dental treatment or preventive services would create a financial hardship, your child may be eligible for free dental treatment.

How is a dental screening done?

A Registered Dental Hygienist has a quick look into the mouth. Sterilized mouth mirrors are used and changed for each child.

If your child is not in one of the above grades and you would like them included:

- Contact the Oral Health Team **immediately** at either 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and ext. 8805, press 1. You will be asked to provide your child's first and last name, date of birth, grade and school.

If you do not want your child to participate:

- Contact the Oral Health Team **immediately** at either 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and ext. 8805, press 2. You will be asked to provide your child's first and last name, date of birth, grade and school. Note that your child will be excluded from now until the end of grade 8 unless we hear otherwise. Please note that if your child has changed schools, you will need to resubmit their exclusion.

Preschoolers and teens up to age 18 are also eligible for financial assistance for dental treatment. To arrange a dental screening call the number listed above and ask for ext. 8804.

Personal health information is collected for the purposes of determining eligibility for dental treatment or preventive services and for program planning and evaluation.

If you have any questions about this program call the number listed above and ask for ext. 8804.

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