

Missouri Preventive Services Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Since dentists or dental hygienists are required for the oral screenings, how do I locate willing volunteers to help with the screenings?** Personal connections are most successful. If someone from your school or agency has a friend or relative who is a dentist or dental hygienist, this is the best place to start when looking for help. Each dentist and dental hygienist will be required to complete an annual online oral screening calibration/training prior to the oral screening event.
2. **How many dentists and/or dental hygienists screeners will I need?** With a small number of children (<100) you may only need 1-2 screeners. However, if you are planning to schedule an entire school or a very large amount of children (>100), you will need perhaps 2-3 or more. Contact your Oral Health Consultant for more information.
3. **Will other volunteers be needed?** Yes. Options for other volunteers;
 - a. Apply the fluoride varnish to the children's teeth.
 - b. Serve as a recorder for the dentist or dental hygienist conducting the oral screening, and /or assist with other paperwork.
 - c. Provide oral education/show a presentation, this can be provided on a different day.
 - d. Escort children to and from classrooms.
4. **How many fluoride varnish volunteers will I need?** A good rule of thumb is 2 per screener, but this amount is flexible. Each fluoride varnish volunteer will be required to complete an annual online varnish application training prior to the event.
5. **How many recorders will I need to assist the oral screener?** Schedule 1 recorder per screener. Using a volunteer to serve as a recorder can be an efficient use of time and is a great help to speed up the oral screening process. However, a recorder to assist the oral screener is not required, some dentists and dental hygienists prefer to complete the screening form themselves.
6. **What about the 2nd fluoride varnish application event 3-6 months after the first application?** The only volunteers you need for the 2nd varnish application are volunteers to apply the varnish. The more volunteers you schedule, the quicker it will be completed. Be sure all varnish volunteers have completed the online varnish training session. No screening is conducted at the second fluoride varnish application event.
7. **The child has an appointment next week with the family dentist. Can that appointment be canceled since an oral screening was completed today?** No, the dental screening is only a quick, visual screening. No x-rays are taken, and no treatment plan is developed. It is important that children continue to be seen by the family dentist each year so that a thorough oral exam can be completed.

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8. **The child saw the dentist last week and no cavities were found during that visit, but the dentist/dental hygienist doing the PSP screening noted a possible cavity. Why?** The volunteer screener (dentist/dental hygienist) performed a quick look in the child's mouth for the oral screening. The diagnosis by the family dentist may include x-rays and will give a complete assessment of the child's oral health. Thus, the diagnosis by the family dentist is the most reliable source of information.
9. **The child received a fluoride treatment at the dental office recently; will it cause harm to the teeth if another fluoride treatment is applied today?** No. Fluoride treatments are topical and strengthen the teeth. Evidence suggests that 4 fluoride varnish treatments a year may be beneficial for children at a high risk for dental decay.
10. **Can children with braces receive fluoride varnish?** Yes. Children with braces are more susceptible to decay and benefit greatly from the application of fluoride varnish.
11. **What will the child experience during and after the fluoride varnish application?** The fluoride varnish is a flavored sticky substance and hardens in the presence of moisture (saliva) almost immediately, thus reducing the risk of swallowing the fluoride. Following the application, the teeth will feel rough until the teeth are brushed the next day.
12. **Can I use X's or check mark to fill in the circles on the screening form?** No, you must fill in the circle completely, pen or marker may be used.
13. **Why do you need school and district name?** Many school buildings throughout the state share common names. To help us reduce errors and ensure data is captured to the correct school district, school and the report is sent to the correct person, we ask that the DESE full school district name and full school names be used on the cover sheets.
14. **Do I report my county of residence or the schools county?** Please report the county location of the school. We use the data to determine oral health outcomes by counties in MO.
15. **Why do I need a cover sheet for each envelope/box returned?** A cover sheet must be included with each envelope or box mailed to our office. The cover sheets identify the contents of the envelope or box. It is okay to make copies of the cover sheets.
16. **Can I use labels or a name stamp on the survey forms?** Yes. You may use pre-printed labels or school name stamp on the screening form to identify your school. Please place the label or stamp in the box indicated on the screening form.
17. **Are educational materials available in Spanish?** Yes.