

# State Funded Fluoride Varnish Program

Dear Parent or Guardian:

August 20\_\_

A preventive oral health program is available through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and North Andrew R-VI. This program is offered to **all** children in the state of Missouri, including those who receive regular dental care.

A licensed dental professional will provide an oral screening for your child and a trained volunteer will apply a thin coating of fluoride varnish to your child's teeth as a preventive measure against tooth decay. This thin coating of fluoride varnish will be applied **twice** during the school year. Fluoride varnish has been proven to be safe and effective in preventing and reversing small areas of early tooth decay. This preventive program also includes a free toothbrush and oral health information.

**\* This service does not replace a regular dental check-up, which is recommended at least once a year. \***

To receive this **no cost** screening and fluoride varnish application, you must provide consent.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want my child to receive a dental screening and **two** applications of fluoride varnish, approximately three to six-months apart.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want my child to have the dental screening, but I do not want my child to have the fluoride varnish.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not want my child to participate in this program.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

## Health History

Has your child ever had serious health problems? Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any allergies? Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ If yes, please list:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Fluoride Varnish: A Smile Saver

## What is fluoride varnish?

It is fluoride in a liquid resin that is painted on the teeth with a small disposable brush. *It strengthens tooth enamel & helps prevents dental decay.*

## Why should my child get fluoride varnish?

- Fluoride strengthens the teeth and can even reverse the damage on a tooth where a cavity is just beginning to form
- Fluoride varnish is one of the most effective ways to prevent tooth decay, if applied regularly

## Kids need fluoride because.....

- Dental caries (tooth decay) is the most common childhood disease; U.S. children miss over 51 million hours of school because of dental problems
- It is important to protect both primary (baby) teeth and permanent teeth. Children don't lose all of their primary teeth until age 12 or older.

## How long does the varnish last?

The varnish itself is brushed from the teeth the morning after application. The effects of the fluoride last for several months.

## Who should get fluoride varnish?

Fluoride varnish is for *anyone* who has risk factors for tooth decay:

- Has already had tooth decay
- Wears orthodontic appliances
- Has white spots on teeth
- Frequently drinks sports drinks, soda, sweet tea, kool-aid, juice
- Frequently chews sugar gum or eats candy & other sweets
- Has a disability which hinders the ability to take care of teeth.
- Has a parent or family member who has had tooth decay

Fluoride varnish is both safe & beneficial for all ages (infants, toddlers, children, teens & adults)