

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 prevent 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)