Dear Faculty and Staff,

We are excited that your school is participating in the preventive dental program provided by the Oral Health Services division of the Knox County Health Department. Our program has three objectives:

First, we will present an educational program with DVDs and demonstrations on daily brushing and flossing, oral hygiene, nutrition and dental sealants. All children may participate in the educational portion of our program. Each student will be given a bag to take home with a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss. This is usually combined with time scheduled for dental screenings, in which students are seen by homeroom classes. Parents desiring their child to be eligible for the free dental sealants MUST return a completed permission form provided the first day of school that was sent home with other important paperwork. If additional forms are needed, parents may contact your school secretary, nurse or visit our website.

The second objective is to identify those children who are in need of urgent or immediate dental treatment. This is accomplished through a dental screening by the hygienist or dentist. Following that, a “mini dental office” will be set up in your school to do SEALANT SCREENINGS for students who returned completed permission forms. If parents wish their child not to participate in education or screenings, they can indicate this on the yellow permission forms. Teachers should accompany their class for dental education and screenings. We see a class approximately every 15 minutes. Students who DID NOT return permission forms are not eligible for sealants through the school-based dental sealant program. Since tooth decay is the most common disease of childhood, we strive to SCREEN and place SEALANTS on all students in your school, if needed. We appreciate your support and assistance in this area.

The final objective is treatment and prevention. Parents of students with urgent need for dental treatment are notified and referred for treatment. We also ask your school nurse to follow up at a later date with parents. After our dental screenings at school, our hygienist will begin placing sealants on those students identified through the SEALANT SCREENING. The procedure takes about 20 minutes per child. We would prefer to have 2-4 children sent at a time. However, we will try to be flexible if this is inconvenient for a particular class.

It may take one to three weeks to complete sealants for your students, depending on the number of forms returned, available space, and the number of hygienists who can be placed at each school. We look forward to providing these important preventive dental services at your school. Thank you for sharing your facilities and time with us for the improvement of your students’ dental health. Please check out our website for more information.

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