

Missouri Preventive Services Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. How can I find dentists and hygienists to help with screenings?** Personal connections are most successful. If someone from your school or agency has a personal friend or relative who is a dentist or dental hygienist, this is the best place to start when looking for your professional help. Each dentist and dental hygienist will be required to complete an online oral screening calibration/training prior to the oral screening event.
- 2. How many dentists and/or hygienists screeners will I need?** With a small number of children (<50) you may only need 1-2 screeners. However, if you are planning to schedule an entire school or a very large amount of children (>50), you will need perhaps 3 - 4 or more.
- 3. How many varnish volunteers?** A good rule of thumb is 2 per screener.
- 4. How many recorders will I need?** Schedule one recorder per screener. This is the most efficient use of time and is a great help to make screenings run very smoothly and quickly. Each fluoride varnish volunteer will be required to complete an online varnish application training prior to the event.
- 5. Will other volunteers be needed?** Yes. One volunteer each should also be scheduled to:
 - a. Provide oral education/run video or PowerPoint presentation at the education station.
 - b. Escort children to and from classrooms.
 - c. Assist with paperwork – making copies; filling in names on forms; etc. (optional)
- 6. What about the 2nd Varnish 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.
- 7. The child has an appointment next week with the family dentist. Can that appointment be canceled since an oral screening was done 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 the child continues to be seen by the family dentist each year so that a thorough oral exam can be completed.
- 8. The child was seen by the family 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 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 effect the environment of the oral cavity and strengthen the teeth.
10. **Can children receive four fluoride treatments over the course of 12 months?** Yes, due to the topical nature of the fluoride treatment, receiving four applications should not be a concern. In fact, evidence suggests that four fluoride varnish treatments in a year's time may be beneficial for children at a high risk for dental decay.
11. **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.
12. **What will the child experience during and after the fluoride varnish application?**
The fluoride varnish is a sticky substance that tastes like bubble gum 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 varnish is brushed away the next day. Children do not normally experience any stomach upset from the varnish application.
13. **Why can't I copy the Screening Form?** Our scanner requires high quality print in order to read and record the data correctly. Screening forms from copiers are too low quality for the scanner and are not accepted by the scanner.
14. **Why do you need school and district name?** Many school buildings share common names and school name abbreviations are routinely used on the cover sheets. To help us reduce errors and ensure data is captured to the correct school and the report is sent to the correct person we ask that the district name be used on the cover sheets.
15. **Do I report my organization's county of residence or the school's county of residence?** Please report the county of residence for the school. We use the data to create a map depicting all schools that participate in PSP.
16. **Why do I need a cover sheet for each envelope returned?** Envelopes don't always arrive together in the mail. We use cover sheets to ensure the correct data is credited to the correct event. It is okay to make copies of the cover sheets.
17. **Can I use stickers/labels on the survey forms?** Yes. You may use pre-printed labels on the screening form to identify your school and grades/screeners as long as the label is placed in the top box on the survey form. Please stagger the location of the labels between forms as this helps them go through the scanner. You may also use a school stamp in lieu of labels.
18. **Are educational materials available in Spanish?** Yes.