

School Dental Screening

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents



What is a school dental screening?

- During a dental screening, a Registered Dental Hygienist uses a light and a sterile mirror to look inside the child's mouth. It takes about 30 seconds per child.
- Dental screening helps to identify if a child needs urgent dental treatment.
- School dental screenings help connect eligible children with free dental services (Healthy Smiles Ontario).
- A dental screening does not replace a dental exam in a dental office.

Why does Public Health do school dental screening?

- The Ministry of Health mandates that all public health units carry out dental screenings for select grades in Ontario Elementary Schools.
- The screenings also inform future dental programming for our community.

How do I find out the results of the screening?

- Each child will be sent home with a sealed brochure marked confidential with their dental screening results. If your child was not screened, it will be noted on the brochure.

What infection control practices will be in place?

- The Dental Screening Team will follow the most up-to-date Public Health Ontario Best Practice Guidelines for School Dental Screenings and the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Guidelines while at the school.

Can I have my child screened if they attend the school but aren't in the listed grades?

- Yes! If you would like your child screened and they aren't in the listed grades, please send a note to the school prior to the screening date. We would be happy to screen your child.

How do I exclude my child from the dental screening?

- If you do not want your child screened, please send a note to the school before the school screening date.