



## Dental Programs and Services For York Region Elementary Schools

### Dental Screening and Referral

Information letters for parents about this program will be forwarded to your school.

Please distribute a copy to **ALL students** to take home several weeks prior to dental screening at your school.

Why do we do dental screening?

- Screening is mandated by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Child Health Program under the Ontario public Health Standards (2008), which are published pursuant to Section 7 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.
- Children can develop dental problems, which their parents may not be aware of.
- Screening provides an opportunity to inform parents of any dental problems that exist and, if they cannot afford dental care for their child, to inform them of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) and the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) programs.

What do we do?

- Dental screening is provided to children in selected grades, determined by the Ministry of Health and Long term Care protocols, plus other children as required. Any child who was funded for dental care through the CINOT program the previous year is also screened.
- Screening consists of a quick visual inspection by a registered dental hygienist, using a separate sterilized mirror for each child.
- Current and appropriate infection prevention and control measures are followed.
- If problems are seen, parents are notified that dental treatment may be required.
- We are required by law to follow-up on any urgent dental conditions.

What do we need?

- A quiet room or private area with an electrical outlet, two tables and three chairs

### Oral Health Assessment and Surveillance

An oral health assessment and surveillance is carried out each year on all children who are screened. It is conducted simultaneously with dental screening. Data is used to determine the prevalence of dental disease and to assess preventive and treatment needs in York Region. It is used locally for program planning and to assess the oral health status of children in our community. Data is also analysed provincially to provide insight into the oral health status of children in Ontario, as well as comparatively by region.

## Dental Programs

### 1. Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program

Dental treatment may be covered under this program for children up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday if:

- a child has been identified by a York Region registered dental hygienist as having an urgent dental condition
- the family has no dental insurance
- and the cost of care would create a financial hardship

### 2. Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Program

Regular visits to a licensed dental care provider may be covered if:

- the child is 17 years of age or under and a resident of Ontario
- the family has an Adjusted Family Net Income of \$20,000 per year or less
- the family has no other dental coverage, including coverage provided by government programs such as Ontario Works

### 3. Individual Preventive Program

If a child would benefit from preventive care, the following services are offered:

- Topical fluoride
- Sealants
- Cleaning and oral hygiene instruction

Information about the proposed services and a medical history form will be sent to the parents. Clinics are held in schools where sufficient number of students would make transporting our portable dental equipment to the school cost-effective. If not, parents will be offered appointments for their children at one of the three clinics below.

Newmarket Dental Clinic  
22 Prospect Street  
Newmarket, Ontario

Richmond Hill Dental Clinic  
50 High Tech Road  
Richmond Hill

Markham Dental Clinic  
4261 Highway 7 East  
Unionville, Ontario

School Clinic requirements:

- Space about 10 feet by 10 feet with an electrical outlet
- Two tables and three chairs
- Portable dental equipment (delivered by York Region Health Services)

### What you can do if a child complains of a dental problem, e.g. toothache

- Notify the parents/guardians of your concern
- If they indicate that providing dental care for their child is difficult due to the cost and they do not have dental insurance, suggest they contact the Dental Program to arrange for a screening at one of our Community and Health Services Dental Clinics by calling (905) 895-4512 or 1-800-735-6625.

### Dental Health Education

Dental resources, with content matched to the OPHEA curriculum, are available for teachers to borrow for one week intervals.