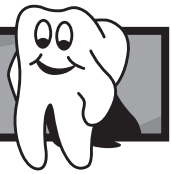




Consent Form



For Questions Contact Program Coordinator: ★ P 406.595.5842 ★ E smile@sproutoralhealth.org

Dental professionals will be visiting _____ School to provide children with no-cost;

- dental screenings
- cavity preventing services including fluoride varnish and dental sealants (**only if needed**);
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, prizes, and dental health "report cards".

This program is not meant to be an alternative to regular dental care. Children who have a dentist should keep existing scheduled appointments and continue regular care by their dentist. This program is available at no-cost to families and follows recommendations from the American Dental Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for school dental sealant programs.

If you feel unclear or uneasy about the screening and preventative services being offered, you may contact 406-595-5842 -OR - you may decline to enroll your child.

If you would like your child to participate: record your child(ren)'s information below, fill out the form, and **SIGN** the bottom of the page.

If you would like to opt out of this program: record your child(ren)'s information below and **CHECK** the **BOX** at the bottom of the page.

Child's Name	Grade	Teacher

Consent

By signing below, I give permission for Sealants for Smiles! (and affiliated dental professionals) to provide the following dental care to my child/children listed above:

A limited dental screening, and **only if needed**:

- A fluoride varnish treatment to help protect teeth from cavities
- Dental sealants to help protect teeth from cavities or to stop early cavities from getting worse (some schools)

Please provide us with the following information:

- YES / NO** My child has a dentist
- YES / NO** My child has seen the dentist in the past year
- YES / NO** My child has Healthy Montana Kids (Medicaid/CHIP)
- YES / NO** Would you like assistance applying for Healthy Montana Kids (free insurance) for your child/children?

By signing below, I give permission for the school to allow my child to participate and receive the dental care as indicated above, and to provide Sealants for Smiles! with the date(s) of birth, state student ID number(s), gender, grade level, and teacher name for my child/children. If my child is found to have an emergency dental infection, I also authorize the School to share my limited contact information for purposes of facilitating follow-up care.

If my child has Healthy Montana Kids or Healthy Montana Kids Plus (HMK), I give permission for Sealants for Smiles! to submit a claim to HMK for the services provided. I understand that if my child has private dental insurance, or no dental insurance at all, the cost of the visit will be covered by grant money and that I have no payment obligation. Bills are *never* sent to families.

I understand that my child's personal information will be kept confidential by Sealants for Smiles! and will be shared only as authorized by me or as permitted by applicable law, e.g., the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. I have had an opportunity to review the Sealants for Smiles! Notice of Privacy Practices at MontanaSmiles.org and may receive a copy upon request.

Legal Caregiver Signature

Legal Caregiver Printed Name

Date

I choose for my child/children to "opt out" of this program. (check this box)



Sealing out tooth decay

Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings placed over the chewing surfaces of back teeth to protect them from developing caries (tooth decay). Sealants cover the bumpy surfaces and crevices called “pits and fissures.” They keep food and plaque from getting trapped in those spaces.

Have you ever noticed how uneven the chewing surfaces are on your back teeth? That’s because these teeth (your molars) have pits and grooves. Though these pits and grooves help grind food, they also can make it easier for cavities to develop. Cavities occur when acid breaks down the hard, protective enamel surface of the tooth. Plaque is a thin film of bacteria that coats everyone’s teeth all the time. When you eat, the bacteria in plaque produce the acids that can break down tooth enamel. Brushing your teeth and cleaning between them helps remove the plaque and food particles that can cause this breakdown, so these are two important things that you can do to reduce your risk of developing decay. However, it is difficult to clean inside the pits and grooves on your molars with a toothbrush. Luckily, sealants can protect your teeth from decay by filling in those pits and grooves, keeping food and plaque out. Sealants may even stop very early stages of tooth decay from going on to form a cavity. fig. 1,2

WHAT ARE SEALANTS?

Usually, sealants are made of a special type of plastic, although sometimes other dental materials may be used. The sealant is applied in a thin coat to the chewing surfaces of your molars. It covers the deep pits and grooves that put you at risk of developing tooth decay. “This coverage makes sealants one of the most effective interventions available for prevention of tooth decay,” according to Dr. Alonso Carrasco-Labra, director of the American Dental Association’s Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry. With the exception of an allergy that may exist, there are no known side effects to sealants.

WHO SHOULD GET SEALANTS?

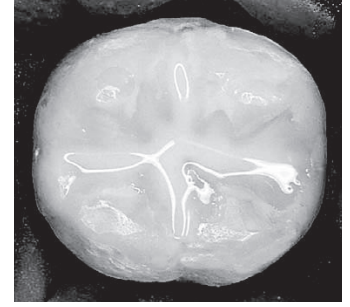
Children and adults both can benefit from sealants. The earlier in life they are applied, the greater protection sealants offer, but it’s never too late to protect any chewing surface that is free from tooth decay with sealants. Sealants are a good investment for anyone, as they can save time and money down the road because you won’t need to treat tooth decay. However, you should check with your insurance carrier to be sure that sealants are covered under your policy.

HOW LONG DO SEALANTS LAST?

Sealants are very durable, and in most cases, hold up for several years. Everyone is different, however, and sometimes sealants need to be reapplied. Your dentist will check them at every visit.



TOOTH BEFORE SEALANT APPLICATION



TOOTH AFTER SEALANT APPLICATION

HOW ARE SEALANTS APPLIED?

The dental professional who applies your sealant will need to start with a clean and dry surface. To make sure the sealant forms a strong bond with the tooth, the tooth’s chewing surface will be roughened with a special gel. Then, the gel is wiped off, and the surface of the tooth is dried once more. Finally, the sealant is applied to the tooth. When applied, sealants have the consistency of a gel or paste and then harden into a strong, protective coating. Some sealants require intense light to harden, so your dentist or dental hygienist may shine a light on the molar surface.

DO SEALANTS TAKE THE PLACE OF BRUSHING AND FLOSSING OR DENTAL VISITS?

Nothing takes the place of good oral care. Your daily routine should include brushing your teeth for 2 minutes, twice a day. Use a soft-bristled toothbrush and a tooth-paste (or gel) with fluoride that have the ADA Seal of Acceptance. Flossing goes hand in hand with brushing. Once a day, you should floss or clean between your teeth. This can be done with dental floss or another product made specifically to clean between the teeth, such as pre-threaded flossers, tiny brushes that reach between the teeth, waterflossers, or wooden plaque removers. Cleaning between your teeth once a day helps remove plaque from between your teeth—another area your toothbrush can’t reach. In addition, you should see your dentist on a regular basis for professional cleanings and check-ups. Treatments such as topical fluoride, provided by your dentist when needed, also can be important in keeping your teeth cavity-free. Sealants are easy to apply and, along with good daily care and regular visits to your dentist, they can be part of a complete dental health plan.

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“For the Dental Patient” provides general information on dental treatments to dental patients. It is designed to prompt discussion between dentist and patient about treatment options and does not substitute for the dentist’s professional assessment based on the individual patient’s needs and desires.