

DENTAL SCREENING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RDH'S

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME! YOUR EXPERTISE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Simple guidelines for the dental screenings:

- 1] Please wear professional attire- scrubs or lab jacket
- 2] Arrive 15-20 minutes before screenings are to begin
- 3] Check in
- 4] Help with setup in designated screening area if necessary
- 5] Review screening report form and guidelines paperwork
- 6] Use CDC infection control guidelines during screenings
 - A] Always wear gloves and change gloves for each child
 - B] Use hand sanitizer in between
 - C] Turn gloves inside out as removing for disposal
 - D] Be sure gloves are off when filling out and/or signing paperwork
 - E] Wearing a mask is recommended
- 7] Use consistent pattern for inspection while screening- start on the upper right, ending on lower right
- 8] Use gauze or cotton tip applicator tip to remove debris or dry tooth to increase visibility if necessary
- 9] Use light source to aid visibility- usually a flashlight
- 10] Remember the screening is to **IDENTIFY VISUALLY OBVIOUS TOOTH DECAY** [this is not an exam]
Be sure to check for swelling in face or neck and abscesses in mouth



- 11] Use discretion when you see obvious problems. Do NOT embarrass or scare the student.
- 12] Other personnel can help fill out forms- except for your signature.
- 13] Do not give the students clean or used gloves, mirrors or tongue blades to play with.

14] Filling out the form:

A] UNTREATED DECAY:

Must be able to readily observe breakdown of enamel surface. Be sure to check pit and fissures and smooth surfaces.

When in doubt, assume tooth is sound.

Stained pits and fissures and white spot lesions are not decay.

Assume retained roots are decay.

Chipped teeth are not decay unless visually obvious decay is present also



B] TREATED DECAY:

Observe fillings are present, including temporary fillings and crowns.

Sealants are not treated decay.

Crowns on front teeth may be trauma not decay. Question the student if necessary.

C] PATTERN OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CAVITIES

Observe 1 or more of 6 upper front teeth decayed, filled or missing due to decay.

Must lift upper lip to check- may ask child to do this.



D] TREATMENT URGENCY

a] **No Obvious Problem**- dental care at next routine visit

If decay on LOOSE baby tooth- no problem

b] **Early Dental Care Needed**- see decay or broken filling- NO infection

Need care within next 3-4 weeks

c] **Urgent Care Needed**- pain, infection, swelling – abscess present

Need care within 24-48 hours

MUST WRITE IN COMMENTS BOX- state findings. EX- # C abscess

14] Child can have both Treated and Untreated Decay

THANK YOU!!