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## York Region Public Health Dental Screening 2018-2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Dental health contributes to our general health and well-being. **Dental screening** will be conducted at your child's school by registered dental hygienists for all children in Grades JK, SK, 2, 7, possibly Grades 4 and 8, and others, as required by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Child Health Program under the *Ontario Public Health Standards and Protocols*. Dental screening consists of a quick look in the mouth **using a separate, sterilized mirror for each child**.

**You will be notified of your child's screening results on the day of screening.** Dental screening is done to identify children who are in need of urgent dental care, or who have other possible dental needs. It does not take the place of a regular dental check-up. Your child may be re-screened at a later date to find out if treatment has been received.

If the cost of dental care would create financial hardship, you may be eligible for the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program. HSO provides no-cost emergency care and routine dental care such as check-ups, x-rays, fillings, and preventive services such as cleaning, fluoride treatments, and pit and fissure sealants for eligible children.

If your child is not in one of the grades listed above and you would like to have him/her screened, contact the Dental Program at 1-800-735-6625, extension 74395. Please be prepared to provide your child's full name, school, date of birth and grade.

**If you wish to have your child excluded from dental screening, notify the Dental Program immediately by calling 1-800-735-6625, extension 74395, with your child's full name, school, date of birth and grade** or in writing to the address below. Once excluded, your child will not receive dental screening in the future while attending this school.

Please note that any information collected during your child's dental screening is done in agreement with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Records of parent requests to exclude children from screening as well as requests for yearly screening will be maintained while the child remains in the stated school. In addition, the collection, use, disclosure, and disposal of this information are subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*.

If you have any questions, please contact one of our registered dental hygienists at 1-800-735-6625. For more information about York Region Public Health programs and services you can also visit [york.ca/dental](http://york.ca/dental)

Sincerely,

Management and Staff of the York Region Public Health Dental Program