Dental Hygienists

of the

Department of Health

are in Greenwich Schools

to assist in:

1. Keeping your child’s teeth and gums healthy.
2. Teaching proper dental care and ways to eat healthy.
3. Preventing dental caries (decay) through the weekly fluoride rinse program in grades 1 through 5.
4. Finding a dentist and/or helping with the HUSKY insurance plan.

The program is offered and available in all Elementary and Middle Schools.

For more information, call us at:
(203) 622-7858 or (203) 622-3779.
The Dental Health Program applies the principles of preventive dentistry through a comprehensive oral health program in the community. Although the major goal of preventing oral disease is directed mainly to children in the public school system, this program also provides services to the Head Start Center programs, preschool programs, Maternal and Child Health clinic, and the adults in the community.

The School Dental Health Program includes:

- **Dental Screening**
- **Classroom Education**
- **Fluoride Rinse Program**

This comprehensive program has been designed to meet the requirements of the human growth and development curriculum of the Greenwich Board of Education and Department of Health.

### DENTAL SCREENING

School dental health screening is a provided service in addition to your child’s regular dental visits. Periodic dental screenings are conducted by our licensed public health Dental Hygienists to detect early dental health problems.

Furthermore, the program focuses attention on health and wellness of your child by promoting preventive measures. In the event that treatment may be necessary, a referral form will be sent home with your child asking that your child be examined by a dentist. Once the form is filled out it should be returned to the school Dental Hygienist for your child’s file.

### CLASSROOM EDUCATION

The Dental Health Program implements program objectives by promoting activities designed to encourage good dental health practices to help prevent dental cavities and gum disease.

All children receive oral health education. In a classroom setting, practical information is provided to promote healthy oral health behaviors. Some topics covered include:

- Brushing and Flossing
- Eating Healthy Foods and Snacks
- Fluorides and Sealants
- Regular Visits to the Dentist
- Mouth Safety and Mouth Guards
- Dangers of Smokeless Tobacco
- Continued visits to the school Dental Hygienists

### FLUORIDE RINSE PROGRAM

Dental caries (decay) is the most prominent chronic childhood disease and is one of the major causes of school absenteeism. It also remains one of the primary indicators of oral health. Tooth decay can also require extensive and costly treatment.

Fluoride has been the basis for primary prevention of dental caries for over 60 years. The Dental Health program offers free, voluntary weekly fluoride rinse to children in grades 1 through 5. The procedure is simple and supervised while students swish the fluoride solution between their teeth for one minute. Some benefits of the program include:

- Effective, safe and available.
- A way to strengthen and protect existing teeth.
- Easy for children to learn.
- Helps lower the incidence of dental caries.
- Helps lower the cost of dental care.

**Greenwich Department of Health**

Dental Health Program

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Please call for more information.