

York Region Public Health Dental Screening 2022-2023

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Dental health contributes to general health and well-being. This letter is to inform you that **dental screening** will be conducted at your child's school by a Registered Dental Hygienist for Grades JK, SK, 2, 8, possibly Grades 4, 7 and others as requested by parents/guardians.

York Region Public Health follows Oral Health Protocol, 2021 of the Ontario Public Health Standards from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, as well as current COVID-19 guidelines.

York Region staff complete a COVID-19 corporate screening tool daily before entering a York Region building or working in the community. Dental screenings will only be performed on children who are not showing any signs of illness (i.e. cough, runny nose).

Dental screening consists of a quick look in the mouth **using a separate, single-use mirror for each child**. School screening does not take the place of a regular dental check-up. Your child may be re-screened at a later date to confirm that treatment has been initiated.

Parents/Guardians will be notified of screening results using the email provided by your child's school. If there has been a recent change to your email address, please notify us at 1-877-464-9675 ext.74388 no later than 48 hours prior to screening. **If you would like to receive a paper copy of your child's screening results**, instead of an email, please call us at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74395 no later than 48 hours prior to screening. Parents/guardians of children with urgent dental findings will be contacted by phone.

If you would like your child screened every year, and they are not in one of the grades listed, please contact the Dental Program at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74395, no later than 48 hours prior to school screening. Please be prepared to provide parent/guardian information and email address, child's full name, school, grade and date of birth. If you wish to have your child screened, they will receive dental screening this year and in future years, while attending this school.

If you DO NOT want your child to participate in screening, please notify the Dental Program immediately, and no later than 48 hours prior to school screening, by calling 1-877-464-9675, ext. 74395, with your child's full name, school, grade, date of birth and parent/guardian email address. Once excluded, your child will not receive future dental screening while attending this school.

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.

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*. Any questions regarding this collection may be directed to the Privacy Officer, located at 520 Cane Parkway, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 8TY and 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74056.

If you have any questions, please contact the dental program at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74388. For more information about York Region Public Health programs and services you can also visit york.ca/dental

Sincerely,

Management and Staff of the York Region Public Health Dental Program

