



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

James W. Clyne, Jr.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 19, 2011

Ms. JoAnn Wixson, Principal
William H Seward Elementary School
52 Metcalf Drive
Auburn, NY 13021

Dear Principal Wixson:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the NYS Oral Health Physical Activity and Nutrition Surveillance Project. This project is a survey of 3rd graders that collects data on the rates of tooth decay and childhood oral health treatment needs. We have contracted with licensed dental professionals to conduct the oral health screenings at six schools in each chosen county over a three year period (two schools per year). The NYSDOH will analyze and evaluate the data and ultimately assist state and federal agencies with program development to address the oral health needs of children. Our hope is that through this program, we can alleviate pain and suffering and school absences due to tooth decay, one of the most common childhood diseases.

Parents of 3rd grade children will be required to give written consent for their child to take part in the screening. As a token of our appreciation for their participation, the children will receive a Crayola Timer Light Toothbrush. Our licensed dental professionals will also provide each child with a form detailing their individual findings to take home to their parents.

These screenings are non-invasive and require less than five minutes of classroom time per child. They can be conducted in a vacant room, nurse's office, auditorium, or any place where sufficient space is available.

The nurse will be contacted by the oral health professional assigned to your school to schedule dates for the survey.

For your convenience we have enclosed a:

- Survey booklet which will be distributed to all families with 3rd grade children at Wood Road Elementary
 - Forms are available in English and Spanish
- <_____> County Surveillance Report from 2002-2005
- Oral Health Survey Fact Sheet
- Crayola Timer Light Toothbrush Fact Sheet

To view our 2005 report, *Oral Health Status of 3rd Grade Children*, visit:
http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/dental/docs/child_oral_health_surveillance.pdf.

Feel free to contact us with any questions you have regarding this project. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paula Fischer, RDH
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Enclosures (4)