



# Peel Public Health School Dental Screening Information for School Staff



## Why is oral health important?

- Good oral health is important to a child's overall health.
- Untreated tooth decay may lead to pain and infection. It may lead to other problems such as difficulty chewing, difficulty concentrating, or the child may miss school.

## Why is Peel Public Health conducting dental screening?

- Peel Public Health provides dental screening in select grades in Peel elementary schools as required by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

## How are Parents notified about School Dental Screening?

The School Dental Screening process has changed and Peel Public Health will no longer be using paper exemption forms. Instead parents will be notified by the school via synrevoice, newsletter, website, email, Facebook and/or Twitter. Parents, who **DO NOT** want their child to be screened will be instructed to call 905-799-7700 extension 5622 before the scheduled dental screening to exempt their child.

If a student missed the dental screening or the parents have other children who are not scheduled for dental screening at school, they can call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to book a dental screening appointment.

## What is a dental screening?

- It is a quick assessment by a Registered Dental Hygienist who will take a quick look inside the child's mouth. A separate, sterilized mouth mirror is used for each child.
- It identifies children who may be in need of emergency and/or essential care or preventive dental services. If a child is identified, a form will be sent home and the parent may be contacted by a dental staff member. A re-screening may be required.
- Eligible children will receive free dental services under Healthy Smiles Ontario.
- A dental screening does not replace regular dental visits.

## What happens after the dental screening?

- The parent will **only** be notified if the child needs additional dental care.
- If the parent cannot afford to take their child to the dentist, the child may be eligible for free dental care with Healthy Smiles Ontario.

### Did You Know?

In Canada, it is estimated that over 2 million school-days are lost per year due to visits to the dentist or dental sick-days.

For more information, call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700  
or visit [peelregion.ca/dental](http://peelregion.ca/dental).