

Peel Public Health

School Dental Screening

Information for School Staff



Why is oral health important?

- Oral health is an important part of a child's overall health.
- Untreated tooth decay can lead to pain and infection which may result in difficulty eating, speaking and learning.

What is a dental screening?

- It is a quick assessment by a registered dental hygienist who will take a 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 dental care.
- A dental screening does not replace a regular dental visit.

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.

How are parents notified about school dental screening?

- Parents will be notified about school dental screening by the school (e.g. via Communicate, 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 before the scheduled dental screening to exempt their child.
- If a child 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 for more information.

What happens after the dental screening?

- A form with the results will go home with every child screened. If a child is identified with a dental condition requiring immediate dental treatment, the parent may be contacted by a dental staff member. A re-screening may be required.
- If the parent cannot afford to take their child to the dentist, the child may be eligible for free dental care through the Healthy Smiles Ontario program. The Healthy Smiles Ontario program provides free dental services for eligible children 17 years of age and under.

For more information, call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700
or visit peelregion.ca/dental