

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Superintendents, Principals, School Nurses and Local Health Directors

FROM: Connecticut Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health and Connecticut State Dental Association

SUBJECT: Organizations Offering to Provide Oral Health Services in Schools

DATE: November 17, 2009

The CT Department of Public Health and the CT State Dental Association have received many questions from schools regarding new dental organizations (in addition to existing ones) offering to provide oral health services to children in the school setting. Usually these services entail dental screening, prevention and/or dental sealant application. Many of these services also entail the use of mobile dental units or portable dental equipment.

If your school is approached by a mobile oral health organization offering to provide services in your school, it is important that you are comfortable with the credentials and protocols of the organization. To assist you with this, we recommend that schools ask questions of the oral health care organization to ensure that:

- Dentists and dental hygienists providing services are licensed Connecticut dental providers.
- there is appropriate approval, generally from the superintendent and/or school committee, for these providers to practice in the school setting or in mobile dental unit providing care to the school's students.
- the mobile/portable oral health provider maintains an appropriate list of local dentists (including those who are HUSKY providers) who have agreed to provide follow-up treatment and/or emergency dental care to children for issues identified by the mobile/portable oral health providers. If possible, request a copy of the list and the signed memoranda of agreement.
- adequate parental information about the service and consent procedures are in place.
- parents are aware of the location of their child's dental records, including x-rays and that these are readily available to parents.
- there are procedures, with assigned responsibilities; for timely notification of parents and referral to local dentists should treatment needs be identified.
- there is a memorandum of agreement between the school district and the mobile/portable organizations, which outlines the responsibilities of each party.

If any questions remain, please contact the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health at 860-509-8203 or the CT State Dental Association at 860-378-1800.

Thank you.

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