

ORAL HEALTH FACTS

- ◆ Dental cavities are the most common chronic childhood disease.
- ◆ Cavities are contagious and can be passed on by a mother's cavity-causing bacteria.
- ◆ Cavities are caused by frequent & prolonged exposure to sugar & bacteria.
- ◆ Untreated cavities may cause problems with growth, learning, speech, & socialization.
- ◆ Cavities can result in costly emergency room visits.



Healthy Smiles FOR WOOD COUNTY

Providing a Cavity Prevention Program
for Your Child at NO CHARGE to You.



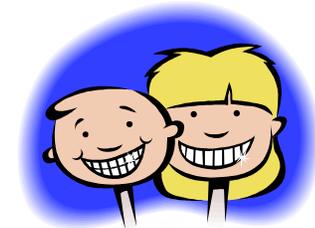
The mission of the Wood County Health Department is to maximize the quality of life across the lifespan by promoting health, protecting the environment and preventing disease and injury.

**WOOD COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Wisconsin Rapids Office: 715-421-8911
Marshfield Office: 715-387-8646

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FLUORIDE VARNISH INFORMATION



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EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF DECAY

- ◆ Swelling
- ◆ White spots along the gum line
- ◆ Tiny holes in enamel
- ◆ Pain in the mouth
- ◆ Tooth sensitivity to sweets
- ◆ Sensitivity when chewing



EARLY TOOTH DECAY



If your child has any of these symptoms please contact your dentist immediately.

Fluoride varnish can help prevent tooth decay.

What does this program offer for my child?

- ◆ Dental Screening
- ◆ Fluoride Varnish
- ◆ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ◆ A letter sent home explaining what services were done and suggestions for further treatment

What is fluoride varnish?

Fluoride varnish is a protective gel that is painted onto the teeth, making them stronger.

How is it put on the teeth?

The varnish is painted on the teeth at school in three different applications and dates.

How long does the fluoride last?

The fluoride coating works best if it is painted on the teeth 2-4 times per year.

After receiving a fluoride varnish treatment at school, does my child still need to go to a dentist?

Yes, fluoride varnish treatments do not replace the need for regular dental check-ups. It is recommended that you take your child to visit the dentist at least once per year, starting at age one.

Healthy Smiles for Wood County is offering a preventive fluoride varnish program in your school for all children in Head Start and 4K.

A Registered Dental Hygienist will come to your school up to three times per year to provide this program at **no charge to you.**

Please read and sign the attached permission slip and return it tomorrow to your child's teacher.

After application do not give your child hot or crunchy foods for 4 hours.

Wait until the morning after the application of fluoride varnish to brush & floss your child's teeth.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Wood County Health Department.

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