

Dear Dr. _____,

We would like to invite your school to participate in the Alachua County School-Based Dental Sealant Program, which is a collaborative project being undertaken by United Way (UW) of North Central Florida and the University of Florida College of Dentistry (UFCD), Dept of Community Dentistry.

This is the third year of the dental sealant program, and because we have additional resources this year- we would like to expand the program to more schools. We are specifically focusing on those schools found to have the greatest prevalence of tooth decay in last year's third grade dental screening.

Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that are brushed on to the chewing surfaces of the permanent molars. This is an easy, painless procedure that has been shown to be highly effective in preventing cavities. This service would be offered free of charge to all children in the second grade, and does not require any resources on the part of the school, except for providing a room to place the portable dental equipment for 2-3 days to provide the services.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood; about 60% of kids aged 5-17 experience cavities. Cavities can cause significant pain and impact the ability of a child to learn in the classroom. A 2011 study of school attendance in North Carolina found that 17% of all school absences were due to dental pain or infection, and children with poor oral health were three-times more likely to miss school. Ninety-percent of all tooth decay occurs on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, and dental sealants are over 70% effective in preventing this decay.

We are including a CDC Dental Sealant Fact Sheet, and you can learn more about school-based sealant programs on the CDC website at:

http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/topics/dental_sealant_programs.htm#2

If you would like to have your school participate in this program, or you have more questions, please contact _____.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
