



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our dental team will be coming to your child's school to apply dental sealants on teeth. Dental sealants are a preventive measure with the sole intent of protecting your child's permanent molars from decay. They are quick, easy and are placed without the need to remove or destroy any of the existing tooth structure. Additionally, there are **no drills or needles** involved in the procedure. Both second and sixth grades are important years in permanent molar growth; therefore, all second and sixth graders are eligible to sign up. **There is no cost to you**, whether your child has a managed care plan, private insurance, or no insurance at all.

Please consider signing your child up for this program, as it is one of the most valuable ways to help prevent cavities and thus, potentially expensive restorative dental procedures. If your child has already received sealants, this can still be a benefit because additional teeth may have possibly erupted since they were initially placed. In addition, your child may benefit from having old or no longer effective sealants repaired and restored. Furthermore, sealants placed by our program do not interfere with the frequency of your child's preventive visits to their own dentist (exams, x-rays, fluoride, cleanings).

This local program, offered by the *Licking County Health Department* (LCHD), is funded by the *Ohio Department of Health* (ODH) and is **not affiliated with any mobile dentist your school might also use**. Our dental sealant team is comprised of a licensed dental hygienist and licensed expanded function dental auxiliary with a combined total of 25+ years of experience.

When you receive the gray permission form, **it is important to checkmark either "YES" or "NO", complete the form and return it to your child's teacher**. We have included a list of frequently asked questions on the back, should you have any additional concerns about the scope of this program. We are pleased to offer this program to your child's school and thank you for your consideration. If you have any additional questions, please call our program director, Kari Kennedy, at (740) 349-6492.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Mengstu".

Helen Mengstu, RDH  
LCHD Dental Hygienist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammie Ridgway".

Tammie Ridgway, CODA, EFDA  
LCHD Dental Assistant



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. My child's school participates in a mobile dentist program, why do I need to fill out separate consent forms?**

- a. We are completely independent of all mobile dentist programs. As mentioned, our program is offered by LCHD, and we are funded by ODH; most of the mobile dentist programs available are offered through private corporate companies. Additionally, we follow-up with your child one year after placing their initial sealants – by contrast, many mobile dentist programs do not do this. While most mobile dentist programs offer other beneficial services, such as cleanings and fillings, we urge you to always research the specific program to see if they are a good fit for your child.

**2. My child has an allergy to latex, plastics and/or acrylics, can they still get sealants?**

- a. Because our sealants are resin coatings, they are not intended for use in anyone with a known allergy to plastics and/or acrylics. We would be more than happy to still provide an exam for your child, but we will not place sealants on their teeth should they need them. Please be sure to properly checkmark the box indicating the allergy.
- b. Regarding latex allergies, there have been many advancements in the medical and dental fields over the years. All our disposable supplies are latex-free (i.e., gloves) and because sealant material does not contain latex, your child may still have them placed.

**3. I'm concerned about infection control. How safe is placing sealants at school?**

- a. Our team has always, and will continue to, follow strict guidelines to stop the spread of germs. In addition to our resin-based sealant, our team has added a glass-ionomer sealant that does not require the use of aerosol-generating equipment (air/water spray). This sealant is used during times of high community spread of COVID-19 and/or other communicable diseases.
- b. Many items used in placing sealants are disposable (used once, then thrown away), such as cotton rolls and paper bibs. Other items, such as mirrors, are used once, then sterilized in an autoclave. Additionally, while in schools, our team uses a HEPA-filtered air purifier system.

**4. Can my child skip going to the dentist if they are getting sealants at school?**

- a. **NO!** Your child participating in this school-based sealant program should not replace any visit to their dentist! We recommend that your child visit their dentist at least once/year (twice/year is ideal) to have a full exam, cleaning and any necessary work done. Remember, PREVENTION IS KEY!

**5. If my child has a cavity, will placing a sealant over it treat it?**

- a. Simply put, no. Sealants are only placed on teeth free from decay. If, during our exam, it is found that your child possibly has cavities, you will be notified in the letter we send home with them. It is very crucial that you schedule an appointment for them to have a proper evaluation by their dentist to address the possibility of decay. The goal is to stop the decay while it is small and least-costly. Please see your school nurse if you need assistance in obtaining dental care for your child.

**6. My child recently received sealants. Is it normal for their bite to feel off?**

- a. Yes, this is a normal feeling. Because the sealant material sits on the surface of the tooth, the tooth may feel a bit tall when your child bites down initially. We use a self-adjusting sealant, meaning that after a few days of normal wear (chewing, talking, etc.), the sealant will adjust itself.