

## Seal-A-Smile Program

The SAS Program was created in collaboration with Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin to improve the oral health of Walworth County's children through school-linked dental sealant programs.

Since 2010, the Walworth County Public Health Department has partnered with Registered Dental Hygienists to provide dental services to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

This program provides oral health education, screening, sealant placement, and fluoride varnish application **free** of charge. Students also receive a toothbrush and toothpaste. Second grade students will be seen again in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for a follow up visit.

### Why does my child need this?

Tooth decay is one of the most common health problems in children. Kids are drinking more soda and fruit juices than ever before. The sugar and acid in these drinks break down enamel and cavities are formed.

It is difficult for toothbrushes to reach the back teeth. Plaque and food can hide in the grooves. Decay causes pain and can prevent your child from eating, sleeping, and learning properly.

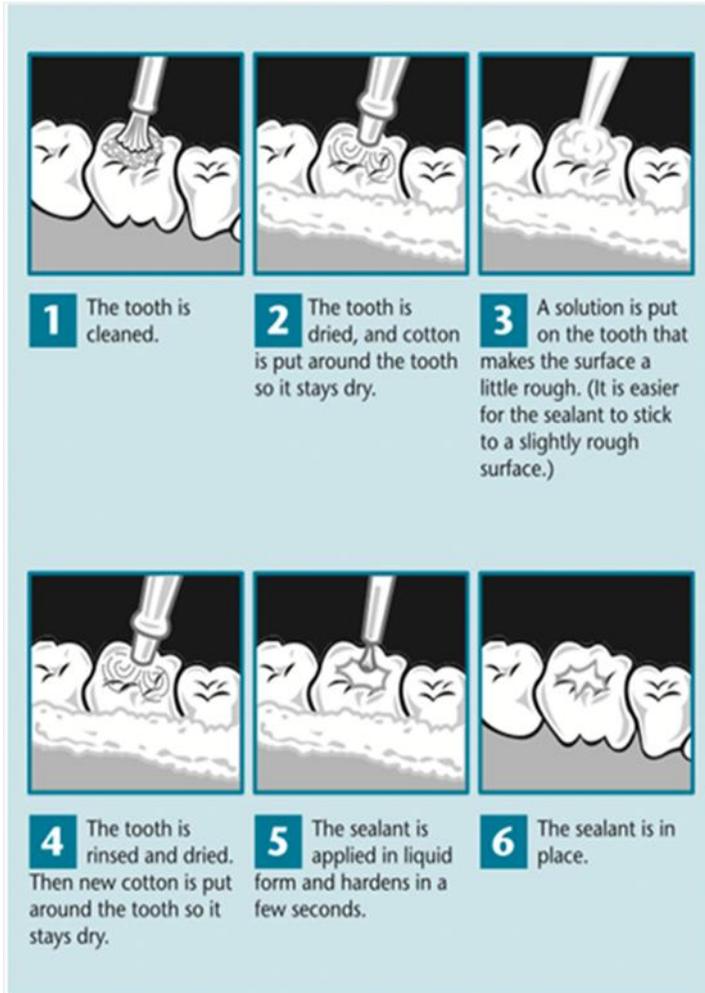
The good news is tooth decay is preventable. Sealants keep out plaque and food while fluoride helps prevent early decay. Together, sealants and fluoride keep teeth healthy and strong, preventing the need for unnecessary fillings and other dental procedures.

### What is a sealant?

A sealant is a thin, tooth colored plastic coating that is painted on a tooth to help prevent cavities from forming. The sealants act as a barrier, protecting teeth from plaque and acids.

Your child will be checked to determine which teeth can have sealants and they will be placed the same day. If your child already has sealants, the hygienist will check them and repair those that may no longer be there.

The procedure is quick, easy, and painless.



### What is fluoride varnish?

Fluoride varnish is topical gel that is painted onto the teeth. It strengthens teeth and makes them more resistant to decay. It also repairs small areas of decay before they can become big cavities. Like sealant placement, this procedure is also quick, simple, and painless.

### How do I sign up?

Forms and informational brochures will be available through your child's elementary school. They will be handed out during registration days as well as when school begins. If you would like your child to participate in this program, please fill out the forms completely and return them to school.

### For more information:

Please contact the Walworth County Public Health Department.

W4051 County Rd NN  
PO Box 1005  
Elkhorn, WI 53121-1005

262.741.3140 TEL  
262.741.3255 TTY  
262.741.3217 FAX  
[walcoph@co.walworth.wi.us](mailto:walcoph@co.walworth.wi.us)

You may also contact the program coordinator for more information.

Chace Wolff, RDH  
[ewolff@co.walworth.wi.us](mailto:ewolff@co.walworth.wi.us)