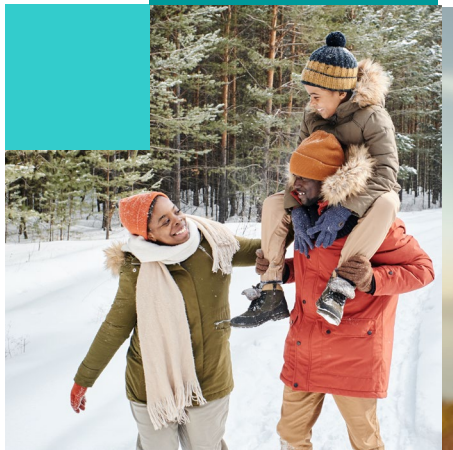


Tooth Things to Know:

School-Based Programs and Toothache Trouble Touchpoints

November 3, 2026

Department of
HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES





Agenda

- School-Based Oral Health Programs
  - **What** are they?
  - **Why** do they matter?
  - **How** do School Nurses help?

- Toothache Troubles
  - **What** do you see?
  - **Why** might you see them?
  - **Who** can you contact for assistance?

School-Based Oral Health Programs

What, Why, and How

November 3, 2026

What School-Based Oral Health Programs provide

- Conduct services at Headstart, Elementary, Middle, and High schools
- Provide screenings, early interventions, and treatments
  - Fluoride varnish
  - Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)
  - Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITRs)
  - Atraumatic Restorative Treatments (ATRs)

Why School-Based Oral Health Programs matter

- Connect children to care
  - Dental home referrals
  - Put eyes on children who otherwise would go without
  - Eliminate transportation barriers
  - Enrollment into coverage

- Normalizes the experience
  - Reduce fears of oral healthcare
  - Familiar surroundings, people

How School Nurses can help

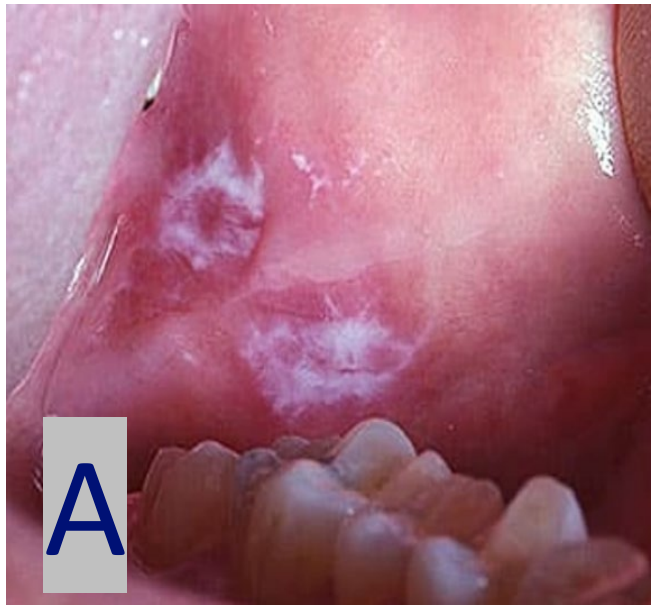
- Main contacts for program
- Collect permission slips
- Liaise with family when there's a concern and contact cannot be made by the program

What will you see in school children?

Oral Health Concerns in School-aged Children

November 3, 2026

What do you see most?













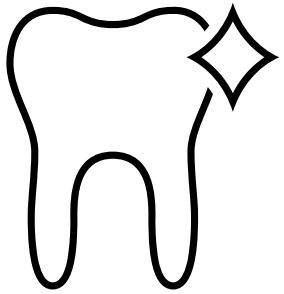
Why might you see them?

- Leakoplakia – reactions to irritant in the mouth (i.e. tobacco products)
- Geographic tongue – harmless, can change spots
- Chipped tooth – impact to area
- Gum disease – access concerns
- Cavities – access concerns
- Abscesses – infections from plaque buildup

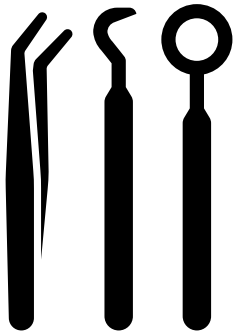
Who to Call



- **Oral Health Program**
  - OralHealth@dhhs.nh.gov
  - 603-271-8459
  - Connections to closest school programs



- **Children's Dental Medicaid Program**
  - 1-844-275-3447
  - Medicaid coverage questions
  - nhsmiles-pasubmissions@dhhs.nh.gov



- **Medicaid Enrollment**
  - 1-844-275-3447
  - General phone number for families to get enrolled in Medicaid for children
  - https://nheasy.nh.gov



Thank you.

Contact:

Alia Hayes, MPH

Oral Health Program Manager

OralHealth@dhhs.nh.gov

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