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Support for School-Based Cavity Prevention Programs

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Oral Health Program supports the delivery of school-based cavity prevention programs in New Hampshire schools. These programs deliver valuable services that maintain and improve oral health for students.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strongly supports cavity prevention programs, like dental sealant programs. Cavity prevention programs reduce the chance of tooth decay and cavities, but do not replace regular dental care. There is good, research-based evidence<sup>1</sup> supporting the services that NH school-based dental programs *may* provide, including:

Oral screening	To check the teeth, mouth and gums for possible problems
Teeth cleaning	To remove the bacteria that can cause cavities and gum disease
Fluoride varnish treatments	To strengthen tooth enamel and help prevent cavities
Silver diamine fluoride (decay-stopping fluoride)	To help stop a cavity from getting bigger and to make it feel better
Sealants	To prevent cavities from starting in the deep pits and grooves of back teeth.
Temporary fillings	To prevent cavities from getting worse. These fillings may use the same material as sealants to keep a cavity from growing larger. No drilling is needed.
Oral health education	To teach children why and how to care for their teeth at home.
Referrals to a dentist	To notify parents that their student requires evaluation or treatment by a dentist.

*By following a cavity prevention routine combining home care and regular dental visits, children can have healthy mouths for life.*

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/dental\\_sealant\\_program/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/dental_sealant_program/index.htm)  
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