

Dear PSP Event Coordinator:

I am emailing as a reminder for you to consider placing your order for supplies for the PSP oral health program for the 2020-2021 school year. To **access ALL** PSP letters, forms and information, please visit the **PSP Web Site:** <https://psp.health.mo.gov/forms/> the web site has revised forms and documents for the 2020-2021 school year.

We are aware of the current climate that exist due to the Corona virus pandemic. We know some schools will not be allowing visitors or parents into school buildings in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff. Please see the bullet points below which addresses other PSP options for this school year.

**PSP Plan A:** If your school will allow visitors into your schools and you are continuing the PSP this year, the volunteers must follow the safety precautions set forth by the school district and the dental professionals will follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the ADA (American Dental Association) and the school district. Please proceed with ordering your supplies as you have done in the past.

**PSP Plan B:** If your school has decided that no volunteers will be allowed in the school this year, we would like you to consider other options to help prevent caries of children in your community.

- **Option #1-** Consider starting the PSP after January 1, 2021, only if COVID-19 cases have decreased and **schools will allow visitors into the school building to serve as volunteers for the full PSP.** If COVID-19 cases have not decreased after January 1, 2021, consider 1 application of fluoride varnish. See **steps below for implementing.**
- **Option #2-** Start the PSP **in the fall without the PSP oral screening aspect and applying fluoride varnish**, thus no volunteer dental professionals will be required. When applying the application of fluoride varnish, the school nurse, if she/he chooses may conduct a visual screening of the children's teeth looking for obvious and large areas of decay on the teeth, **no PSP screening form would be completed. Recommendation would be to apply fluoride varnish in the fall and spring if possible.** The option to send fluoride varnish home and allow the parents to apply is available as well. Work with your Oral Health Program Consultant for consent forms and home care instructions.

### **Steps for Implementing Options #2**

- a) The application of the fluoride varnish (with parental consent) can be completed with 2 options;
  1. The fluoride varnish applications would be applied by school staff or select volunteers allowed in the school buildings.
  2. The fluoride varnish packets would be sent home with the child for the parents to apply in the home.
- b) All supplies would be offered, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss (4<sup>th</sup> grade and above), and oral health literature.
- c) The oral health education would be fulfilled by either staff or the **NEW PSP** narrated oral educational presentations by grade level found on our web link education tab.
- d) It is **critical** that you please still complete the online PSP Event Report (#7 at <https://psp.health.mo.gov/forms/>).
- e) Referral for treatment of decay noticed during the nurse's oral assessment would be highly recommended.

**PSP Plan C:** If you choose to not participate in **Plan A or B**, we highly encourage you to promote oral health education to all children with **Plan C**. With this plan, we ask that you provide oral health education by utilizing our **NEWLY UPDATED PSP** narrated PowerPoint presentations found on our web link under the education tab. You may still order education materials along with toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss for the children. Once the oral education is completed we ask that you complete the PSP Event Report (#7 at <https://psp.health.mo.gov/forms>) and answer the questions that apply to education. This plan acknowledges the importance of oral health education and helps fulfill one of the components of the Preventive Services Program. Please work with your Oral Health Program Consultant to answer any questions you may have.

**Please reach out to me by email and let me know how you and your school would like to proceed. Other suggestions or comments are welcomed. Our hope is to not see a regress in the oral health of the children in your communities. Let's continue to work together for better oral health in kids!**