



# **NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH**

## **Fluoride Varnish Application Guide Addendum COVID-19 GUIDANCE**

Standard Procedures for Fluoride Varnish Application  
Revised June 2017  
Revised May 2021



**PROTOCOL FOR FLUORIDE VARNISH APPLICATION  
NM STATE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH**

## **New Mexico Department of Health - Office of Oral Health**

### **COVID-19 Guidance for the New Mexico Department of Health-Office of Oral Health Topical Fluoride Varnish Application Program Addendum**

**Applicability:** This guidance is applicable to the New Mexico Department of Health-Office of Oral Health Topical Fluoride Varnish Application Program.

#### **Guidance:**

Definitions: For purposes of this guidance, the following definitions apply:

- “Non-Aerosol Generating Procedure (non-AGPs)” means any dental procedure that does not use the air/water syringe or non-modified suction device to reduce aerosols.
- “CDC” means the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- “Four-handed dental technique” means a dental hygienist and dental assistant or non-dental professional providing dental materials.
- “OSHA” means the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- “Mitigation” means reduction.
- “OSHA” means the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- “Personal protective equipment (PPE)” means disposable equipment used to protect the patient and providers, such as: gloves, gowns, face shields, surgical masks, N-95 masks, KN-95 masks, eye protection wear, etc.
- “Program” means New Mexico Department of Oral Health-Office of Oral Health, (NMDOH-OOH), School Topical Fluoride Application Program.
- “DHCP” means Dental Health Care Provider
- “Standard Precautions” means the minimum prevention practices that apply to all patient care, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status of the patient, in any setting where health care is delivered. These practices are designed to both protect DHCP and prevent DHCP from spreading infections among patients.

**I. Criteria for school Topical Fluoride Varnish Application program to prepare to operate in a school setting.**

**A. Program staff:**

**1. Training**

A program must train all program staff in COVID-19 risk factors, signs, symptoms, mitigation and infection control standards according to OSHA and CDC guidance.

**2. Health Screenings:**

- a) A program must have a written plan to screen for COVID-19 for all personnel that provide services on school premises.
- b) A screening for COVID-19 signs and symptoms must be performed and documented daily for any staff reporting for work outside of their home.
- c) DHCPs will follow NMDOH guidance for contact tracing.
- d) Staff must immediately report COVID-19 to their supervisor.
- e) A program must report a staff member who has been present in a school and has COVID-19 symptoms to the school contact person and the NMDOH.
- f) Program staff must stay home if they are feeling sick. This includes any cold or flu-like symptoms.

**B. Program equipment and supplies for Topical Fluoride Varnish Application.**

**1. Equipment**

- a) A program must acquire and use equipment to follow the non-AGP guidelines according to the equipment.

**2. Supplies**

- a) A program must acquire, and use supplies necessary to follow non-AGP guidelines according to the fluoride varnish application instructions.
- b) Prepare dental supplies in the clinical area.
- c) Store supplies, such as, tooth brushes, glasses, stickers, and education materials, in a completely covered storage container away from the clinical area.

**II. Criteria for school Topical Fluoride Varnish Application Program to provide services at school.**

**A. Clinical service area considerations:**

1. A program must follow infection control in accordance with the most current CDC guidance.
  - a) Avoid carpeted areas for oral health services. To the extent possible, perform dental services on bare uncarpeted flooring, tarps or portable mats.
  - b) A program, must work with the school to determine the most appropriate area to complete oral health screenings and dental services.

**B. PPE:**

1. Follow CDC and OSHA guidance.
  - a) PPE supplies should be used responsibly to ensure their availability. Effective hand hygiene; standard precautions must always be used. DHCP must wear respiratory protection.
2. To reduce the number of times DHCP must touch their face and potential risk for self-contamination, DHCP should consider continuing to wearing an N-95 mask covered with a surgical mask and face shield. The surgical mask can be changed as needed. If the mask becomes contaminated, it must be replaced with a new mask.
  - a) Barriers or disinfectant wipes must be used on difficult to clean items or surfaces:
  - b) Hair must be pulled back and away from clinician's face. Head or hair coverings and shoe coverings are optional.
  - b) Remove or disinfect PPE before leaving the clinical area.

**C. Pre-service COVID-19 symptom screening for students:**

1. Take student's temperature prior to the student entering the clinical area to receive services. Document in the student's dental record.
  - a) If a student has a temperature of  $\geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ , the student should be immediately referred to school nurse or designated contact person.

- b) The program should consider using the four-handed technique for all grades and student receiving any fluoride varnish.
- c) A program must apply dental sealants according to manufacture's Instructions.