



## Think Outside the Box

SEAL! Michigan is funded by the Title V MCH Block Grant. Our objective is as follows:

**Title V objective: Objective A: Increase the number of students who have received a preventive dental screening within a school-based dental sealant program. This objective aligns with the Oral Health NPM: Percent of children, ages 1-17, who had a preventive dental visit in the past year.**

In the past, we have met this objective with the school-based dental sealant program. However, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, reaching children in the school environment may be challenging. Clearly, dental decay has not ended on the account of COVID-19 and with schools being out, and in fact, children \*may\* experience higher risk of decay due to change in diet, change in routine, access to preventive dental as a result of it ending for several weeks (or more in some cases), and loss of parental employment and/or dental insurance benefit. All these potential contributing factors, combined with the unknown of how long disruption will occur, will require SEAL! Michigan partners to 'Think Outside the Box' on how to still be able to deliver preventive oral health services to children, ages 1-17, to ensure students are still receiving preventive care and so Title V funding objectives are met.

Tip: Contact schools to have the conversation on why oral health is essential to health and request that oral health services are listed as an essential health service in their return to school plan.

### Brainstorming

#### **Oral health programs have access into the schools to serve students:**

- School is in service 5 days a week and will allow oral health services
- School is in with Group A and Group B on alternating days and will allow oral health services.
  - a. Proceed as normal, consider this will take additional coordination of days to be there on days where the Group plan is in effect , so that the dental provider is on site when both groups are present.
  - b. If food distribution to families is occurring offer drive thru dental assessments, education, oral health kits and referral source.
  - c. Converse with school administrators about importance of continuing oral health services for students and thank them for recognizing oral health as an essential health care service.
  - d. If schools have a certain day off a week for all students, consider focusing on those days for services at alternative locations and or in the school.

**Oral health programs do not have access into the schools to serve students or students are not in the schools due to electing to learn remove/virtual:**

- School is in full time but will not allow anyone to enter.
- School is in full time, will allow visitors, but will not allow instructional time to be allocated to oral health services.
- School is in with Group A and Group B on alternative days and will not allow anyone to enter.
- School is in with Group A and Group B on alternative days and will not allow instructional time to be allocated to oral health services
- School is not in service at all in the school buildings
  - a. Request school administrators consider oral health services as essential student health services and document it in their return to school plans.
  - b. Offer to provide oral health services in the school-linked scope at a health department, FQHC, mobile bus, set up parking lot clinic, athletic field set up etc.
  - c. Work with the appropriate school staff or administrator on assistance with communication to parents on when and where oral health services can still be received (website, Robo call, flyers home, Social Media posts).
  - d. Use a mobile dental bus in the parking lot to provide services.
  - e. Dropoff toothbrushes and educational packages to be distributed (deliver to office, as to distribute to teachers, then to students).
  - f. During food distribution pick up offer drive thru visual dental assessments, education, oral health kits and a referral source, location in the parking lot or at pick up point.
  - g. Offer services in the parking lot on the day school is closed for disinfection.
  - h. If schools have a certain day off a week for all students, consider focusing on those days for services at alternative/school-linked locations.
  - i. Hand out consent forms with the FRLP meals distribution pick up. Have a plan for easy consent form return (self-addressed envelope, coordinate how to complete on site and drop form off with school personnel, return form to the pickup site the following day etc.
  - j. Consider reach out to families to schedule appointments.
  - k. Attach a flyer with the consent forms with a date and time that we will be at the school and people can wait in line in their cars.
  - l. Drive-up, kids stay in car, for oral health assessment and referral.
  - m. Coordinate after school oral health services where parents bring their student for services (in school or on a mobile bus), consider being present more often to capture days different groups of kids will be at the school.
  - n. Dropoff toothbrushes and educational packages to be distributed.
  - o. Create educational video (or other items that share information on dental services provided) made for individual program specific to services that can be provided (shared to teacher, hosted on appropriate website, upload to YouTube and share on SEAL! MI programs own webpage. This can also be shared with MDHHS, Michigan Oral Health Coalition, Michigan School Nurse Association, Michigan Dept of Education, MDHHS

School Nurse Consultant, School Nutritionist etc. Include a visual of dental providers in various PPE to demonstrate what dental professionals now look like.

- p. Ask teachers and/or main contact at school (school nurse, receptionist, administrators, school counselor etc.) to share dental related opportunities with parents directly (request via email).
- q. Contact “informed” site for the community to share ideas and opportunities for dental services (ask to be a member, then once a member items can be posted/shared/linked). Many communities have an “Informed” page on FaceBook.
- r. Consider “Next Door” app to share opportunities for community members.
- s. Advertise at local Libraries (create bookmark to advertise services).

**Alternative locations/ages/services/alternative communications (consider seeing ages 1-17. Preventive services include screening assessments, prophy, fluoride varnish, SDF, sealants on primary and permanent molars).**

- a. Daycare Centers (in school, home daycare)
- b. WIC
- c. Head start centers
- d. Youth Groups (YMCA, Church, *Boys & Girls Club*, hockey arenas, other sporting arenas)
- e. Career Center for older children, many locations have childcare centers as well.
- f. Youth homes
- g. Group foster homes
- h. McDonald’s, Subway, Pizza places adding a flier in the Happy Meal containers or meal bags of future events and location in the surrounding area, add flyers to public bulletin boards.
- i. Reach out to local apartment complex, mobile home park, Community Center, Township Hall, City Hall, and use the commons area/conference room to set up for services on those days as kids will be at home/off school.
- j. Reach out to local Libraries to advertise dental opportunities (create a bookmark)
- k. Food pantry opportunities (screening, set-up sealant clinic etc.)
- l. Reach out to local clubs (Moose, Elks, Eagles, Lion’s, VFW, American Legion, Migrant Camps ) to let members know when they will be hosting events (set up in parking lots during their events).
- m. Large retailers with space to allow parking lot space for dental services (Walmart, Meijer, hospitals/medical clinics etc.).

***Data note: At the end of the year, data (qualitative and quantitative) will need to be provided on services that were delivered. Track, count, and document everything you do that meets the Title V objective.***