INFORMED CONSENT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL-BASED DENTAL CAMP PROGRAM

Introduction

This page provides clear, parent-friendly information explaining the dental screening and preventive procedures our team offers during on-site dental camps at schools and other institutions. Please review each section to understand the nature, indications, contraindications, precautions, risks, benefits, and aftercare for each procedure, as well as your rights and responsibilities as a parent or guardian. All our procedures are aligned with internationally accepted dental consent and patient safety standards.

Section 1: Comprehensive Dental Screening and Examination

Full Checkup Details

The comprehensive dental checkup includes a systematic visual and tactile examination of:

- **Extraoral Areas:** Face, jaws, jaw joints, and neck for abnormal swellings or findings.
- **Intraoral Soft Tissues:** Lips, cheeks, tongue, palate, gums, and throat for any sores, swelling, or lesions.
- **Teeth:** All teeth are checked for cavities, discoloration, fractures, developmental problems, and existing fillings.
- **Gums/Periodontal Status:** Detection of gum disease, plaque, calculus, or bleeding.
- **Bite and Alignment:** Assessment of the way teeth come together, crowding, and missing teeth.

Procedure Description

- Conducted by a qualified dental professional using sterilized equipment.
- Non-invasive (no drilling or anesthesia required).
- Sometimes mirrors and small instruments tap gently on teeth and gums.

Indications

- All students for routine care.
- Identification of oral health problems early.
- Determining eligibility for school-based preventive treatments.

Contraindications

- Only if the child has a severe uncontrollable medical condition or acute illness that prevents participation at that time.
- Parent or guardian opts out of the screening.

Precautions

- All medical history is reviewed in advance.
- Children with special needs or anxiety are supported with extra care or alternative arrangements if required.
- Rigorous infection control is followed.

Risks

- Minimal. Occasionally, slight gagging or brief discomfort may occur.

Aftercare

- No aftercare restrictions.
- Parents/guardians receive a detailed report and recommendations.
- If contact info is unavailable, results are routed via the school.

Section 2: Dental Radiography (Digital X-rays)

Full Procedure and Description

Dental X-rays help see tooth and jaw problems not visible in a routine checkup. We use digital radiography, minimizing radiation exposure. Types include bitewings (check for cavities between teeth) and periapicals (look at roots). All out Xray are digital and also contain AI analysis.

Indications

- Clinical signs suggesting hidden tooth problems.
- Evaluation of tooth eruption, developmental issues, or infection.

- **Only taken when genuinely needed (determined by doctor only) not as a routine for everyone.**

Contraindications

- Pregnant students or those with parent refusal.
- Recent adequate X-rays (to avoid repeat exposure).
- Children unable to tolerate the procedure after attempts at comfort.

Precautions

- Lead apron and thyroid collar may be used if required as per international guidelines.
- ALARA principle: Minimal number of exposures using the lowest setting.
- Sensors disinfected or covered for each child.

Risks

- Negligible radiation.
- Rare: Mouth irritation or gagging momentarily from X-ray plate.

Aftercare

- None needed. Children may eat, drink, and attend class as normal.
- Radiographic findings are explained in the dental report.

Section 3: Oral Prophylaxis (Teeth Cleaning/Scaling)

Full Procedure and Description

Professional teeth cleaning involves removal of plaque, tartar, and superficial stains above the gumline using hand instruments and/or an ultrasonic cleaner. The process may also include polishing and flossing.

Indications

- All children for prevention after screening, unless contraindicated.
- Signs of plaque, tartar, or gum inflammation.
- Before fluoride treatment or sealant application.

Contraindications

- Acute mouth infections or severe, uncontrolled bleeding disorders.

- Children needing special medical precautions (e.g., some heart conditions) unless cleared by a doctor.
- Parent/guardian refusal.

Precautions

- Medical history screening for allergies or risk factors (such as bleeding or heart conditions).
- Children with a cough or fever.
- Sterile or single-use, properly disinfected tools.

Risks

- Temporary gum bleeding or sensitivity.
- Mild discomfort in children not used to dental cleaning.
- Rarely, minor gum irritation.

Aftercare

- Gentle brushing and flossing are encouraged after the procedure.
- Saltwater rinses might help if tenderness is felt.
- Sensitivity (if any) should resolve within 1-2 days.

Section 4: Pit and Fissure Sealants

Full Procedure and Description

Sealants are thin, protective coatings placed on the chewing surfaces of new permanent molars and sometimes premolars. The tooth is cleaned, coated with a safe etchant gel, rinsed and dried, and the sealant resin placed and 'cured' by blue light. Please note the material applied can wear and tear with normal use , hence reapplication is advised as required.

Indications

- Children with newly erupted permanent molars/premolars (back teeth).
- Teeth with deep grooves and pits.
- Children at moderate/high risk for tooth decay.

Contraindications

- Obvious decay in the tooth (needs a filling instead).
- If the tooth cannot be kept dry during application.
- Known allergy to any component.

Precautions

- Procedure is quick, painless, and non-invasive, but children may avoid eating right before the procedure.
- Complete drying is ensured for success.

Risks

- Most common: Loss of the sealant (can be reapplied easily).
- Very rare: Mild taste irritation or allergic reaction.
- No reported lasting adverse effects.

Aftercare

- Can eat/drink immediately, but best to avoid sticky foods for several hours.
- Sealants must be checked periodically during dental checkups.

Section 5: Fluoride Gel Application

Full Procedure and Description

A thin layer of professionally formulated fluoride gel is applied directly to the teeth, or placed in a tray held in the mouth for a few minutes. This strengthens the enamel and helps prevent cavities.

Indications

- Moderate to high risk for tooth decay.
- Early white spots or 'weak' enamel.
- Recent molar eruption.

Contraindications

- Known allergy to fluoride compounds.
- Very young children (<2 years, for gels) or those unable to cooperate safely.
- Low risk children with good alternative fluoride sources.

Precautions

- Only the recommended amount is used.
- Children are supervised throughout the procedure.
- Must not eat, drink, or rinse for 30 minutes after procedure.

Risks

- Rare: Mild nausea if swallowed.
- Temporary unpleasant taste is possible.
- Very rarely: allergic reaction.

Aftercare

- Do not eat, drink, or rinse mouth for 30 minutes.
- Resume regular brushing and flossing the same day.

Section 6: General Information, Parental Rights, and Responsibilities

Your Rights and Consent

- Participation in the dental program is voluntary.
- You may opt out of any individual procedure and withdraw consent at any time.
- You have the right to ask questions and receive clear answers before making decisions.
- Full medical and allergy history must be provided for your child's safety.

Privacy and Reporting

- All findings are kept confidential and used only for dental care.
- Reports go directly to parents/guardians unless alternate arrangements are specified by the school.
- Only authorized staff access dental information.

Program Scope and Limitations

- This camp provides basic screening and preventive care only.
- Any non-invasive treatments (paid) indicated by the doctors shall be completed within school premises with due consent of school and parents.

Emergency Preparedness

- All staff are trained in emergency protocols and first aid.
- Basic Emergency equipment is available at each camp site.
- Immediate contact will be made with school authorities in the rare event of an emergency.

Cost and Financial Information

- Any fees or sponsorship details are communicated in advance.
- No unexpected charges will be billed to parents.

Conclusion

By providing your consent, you acknowledge understanding all the above information and agree to your child's participation in the specific dental procedures authorized. Our team is committed to patient safety, comfort, and high professional standards.

For questions or clarifications, please contact the school administrator or the dental camp coordinator named in the camp notice.

This document is structured in accordance with internationally recognized standards for informed consent in dentistry. No references are included, as this content is intended for direct communication and understanding by parents and guardians. For detailed scientific or legal background, please contact our clinic or refer to regulatory authorities.