

February 2017

Dear CHDP Providers:

February is National Children's Oral Health Month (NCOHM). The purpose is to raise awareness of the importance for children to develop good oral habits at an early age to ensure a lifetime of healthy smiles. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommends that children receive their first dental exam no later than one year of age.

Oral Health and Children

- Early childhood caries (cavities) is the number one chronic disease affecting young children.
- Early childhood caries is 5 times more common than asthma and 7 times more common than hay fever.
- Tooth pain keeps many children home from school or distracted from learning.
- Children are recommended to have their first dental visit by age 1.

Education and Training

- Pediatricians and other medical providers can play an important role in children's oral health outcomes and improve the overall health of children. Children who may not have the opportunity to see a dentist are well served by pediatricians who are knowledgeable about oral health.

Kern County Public Health Services Department, Child Health & Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) is committed to helping pediatricians and other health care providers learn how to identify oral disease, provide caries prevention services and when to refer a to a dentist.

The Kern County Public Health Services Department will be available for Oral Health presentations and fluoride varnish training to increase your oral health knowledge and assist with care coordination. Typical presentations/trainings usually last 30- 60 minutes, and cover healthy teeth, brushing, flossing, diet, and fluoride varnish application. If your office would like to request a dental presentation or training please contact Imelda Ceja-Butkiewicz at 661-868-1201 or at imeldacb@co.kern.ca.us.

Thanks you for helping serve the needs of Kern County's children.

Michelle Pearl-Krizo, PHN III

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CHDP Coordinator