

## Why does my child need this?

Tooth decay is one of the most common health problems in children. Kids are drinking more soda and fruit juices than ever before. The sugar and acid in these drinks break down enamel resulting in cavities.

It is difficult for toothbrushes to reach the back teeth. Plaque and food can hide in the grooves. Decay causes pain and can prevent your child from eating, sleeping, and learning properly.

The good news is tooth decay is preventable. Sealants keep out plaque and food while fluoride helps prevent early decay. Together, sealants and fluoride keep teeth healthy and strong, preventing the need for unnecessary fillings and other dental procedures.

## How do I sign up?

Forms will be available through **your child's elementary school**. Please fill them out completely and return them to school.

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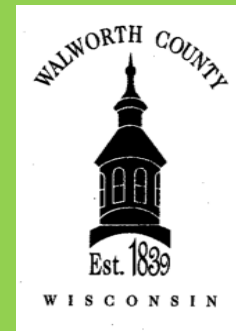
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### Statement of Confidentiality

Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services adheres to confidentiality policies set by federal, state, and administrative laws. The release, transfer and access to protected health information meets the standards required under 45 CFR Parts 160-164 (HIPAA), 42 CFR, §51.30 of Wisconsin Statutes, and DHS 92 of Wisconsin Administrative Code.

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## SEAL-A-SMILE (SAS)



Walworth County  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Division of Public Health

## SAS Program

The SAS Program was created in collaboration with Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin to improve the oral health of Walworth County's children through school-linked dental sealant programs.

Since 2010, the Walworth County Public Health Department has partnered with registered dental hygienists to provide dental services to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

### Services Offered

- Oral screening
- Sealant placement
- Fluoride varnish
- Oral health education
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Second graders will receive additional screening in 3rd grade during a follow up visit

## Sealant & Fluoride

### What is a sealant?

A sealant is a thin, tooth-colored, plastic coating that is painted on a tooth to help prevent cavities from forming. The sealants act as a barrier, protecting teeth from plaque and acids.

Your child will be checked to determine which teeth can have sealants and they will be placed the same day. If your child already has sealants, the hygienist will check them and replace.

### What is fluoride varnish?

Fluoride varnish is a topical gel that is painted onto the teeth. It strengthens teeth and makes them more resistant to decay. It also repairs small areas of decay before they can become big cavities. The procedure is quick, easy and painless.

## Sealant Procedure



**1** The tooth is cleaned.

**2** The tooth is dried, and cotton is put around the tooth so it stays dry.

**3** A solution is put on the tooth that makes the surface a little rough. (It is easier for the sealant to stick to a slightly rough surface.)



**4** The tooth is rinsed and dried. Then new cotton is put around the tooth so it stays dry.

**5** The sealant is applied in liquid form and hardens in a few seconds.

**6** The sealant is in place.

Seal out decay!  
Keep teeth strong!

