

April 2, 2019

Dear Principal,

RE: Population & Public Health Dental services for children

A province-wide kindergarten dental survey will be taking place in the 2018/2019 school years. This survey is conducted every three years to monitor trends in early childhood dental health and to identify children with dental concerns. This information also helps us to evaluate the effectiveness of dental programs. A copy of the last provincial report, summarizing the findings of the 2015/2016 survey, can be found here: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2017/provincial-kindergarten-dental-survey-report-2015-2016.pdf>

Schools are asked to assist public health staff by providing a copy of the class list with the children's names, parent's names, child's birth date, telephone number and address and the option to self-identify their child as of Indigenous ancestry. Section 79 of the *School Act* permits persons providing health services access to information in the student record required to carry out that service.

All information will be collected, used and/or disclosed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

You will be contacted to schedule the dental survey screening visit. A package will be provided for each teacher with parent notices about these services. These notices need to be distributed two weeks prior to the visit. If it should happen that this is not done, please notify the dental team immediately so that the visit can be re-scheduled.

Following service provision, parents of children requiring follow up will be contacted by the dental team.

We value your continued support of our efforts to improve the health status of children. Please contact Shirley Gray (shirley.gray@northernhealth.ca or 250-631-4232) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sandra Allison, MPH CCFP FRCPC
Chief Medical Health Officer
Northern Health



Dr. Margo Greenwood
Vice President, Indigenous Health
Northern Health

Encl (1) Parent Letter

Cc: Medical Health Officers - Dr. Andrew Gray, Dr. Jong Kim, Dr. Raket Kling
Chief Operating Officers - Penny Anguish, Angela De Smit, Ciro Panessa