

# South East Health Unit

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## Important Information for School Oral Health Screening 2025 - 2026 School Year

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Screening Date: **February 12, 2026**

Oral health screening will be provided by the Health Unit for students enrolled in JK, SK and grade 2, and follow-up as required in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990. C. H.7.

Oral health screening does not replace an exam with a dentist.

If you wish to have your child **excluded** from the oral health screening, please contact the Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or 613-345-5685 extension 2456 at **least 5 business days prior to the screening date**. Please leave a message with your child's name, telephone number, grade, school and we will contact you to confirm your message has been received.

### What is oral health screening?

- Oral health screening is a mandated program by the Ministry of Health.
- Screening is a quick visual assessment by a Registered Dental Hygienist using a disposable mouth mirror and flashlight.

### Why do Public Health Units in Ontario provide oral health screening?

- Public health units across Ontario are mandated under School Health Requirement number 525 of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) 17 to conduct oral health screenings in elementary schools.
- Identify if a child has an urgent dental need.
- Inform families about government oral health programs.
- Oral health screenings are used to collect data. This data is an important tool that has a direct impact on helping to determine factors that are important for prevention and early identification of oral health problems.

### Can your child refuse oral health screening?

- Informed or implied consent is required from each student. The Oral Health Team will not screen a child who declines screening.

### Will a notification be sent home with my child with the screening results?

- On the day of screening, a summary of the screening results will be sent home with your child.

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health  
179 North Park St.  
Belleville, Ontario K8P 4P1  
613-966-5500 | 1-800-267-2803  
Fax: 613-966-9418

Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox  
& Addington Public Health  
221 Portsmouth Ave.  
Kingston, Ontario K7M 1V5  
613-549-1232 | 1-800-267-7875  
Fax: 613-549-7896

Leeds, Grenville & Lanark  
District Health Unit  
458 Laurier Blvd.  
Brockville, Ontario K6V 7A3  
613-345-5685 | 1-800-660-5853  
Fax: 613-345-2879

- If your child has been identified as having an urgent dental need, you will be contacted by the Oral Health Team to offer support and help develop a plan for care.
- If we are unable to confirm a plan is in place for care, your child may be re-screened as part of the mandated follow-up process.

**What if my child isn't in a grade which is to be screened?**

- If your child is not in a grade which will be screened and you would like them to be screened, please call the Health Unit 1-800-660-5853 extension 2456.

**I do not have private dental insurance, are there programs that can help?**

- If dental care is indicated after your child has been screened and the cost of dental care would cause a financial hardship, please call the Health Unit Oral Health Team to see if your child qualifies for free dental care through The Healthy Smiles Ontario Program.
- You may also be eligible for the Canadian Dental Care Plan. For more information visit the website at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html>

**What if my child has an immediate dental problem?**

- Contact your dentist right away as oral health screening does not replace an exam with a dentist.
- If the cost of dental treatment would create a financial hardship, contact the Health Unit.

**What if screening is cancelled due to weather or unforeseen circumstances?**

- If oral health screening is cancelled, we will reschedule as soon as possible. There will be no further communication from the Health Unit to parent/guardian regarding the rescheduled date of screening.

**What if your child misses the oral health screening at school?**

- If you would like your child to be screened, it can be booked at one of our dental clinics, please call the Health Unit.

Our privacy policy is available on our website at <https://healthunit.org/privacy-policy/>

For more information, please contact our office at 1-800-660-5853 or 613-345-5685 extension 2456.

Sincerely,

Oral Health Team

South East Health Unit

*(Formerly Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit)*