

Notice of Your Rights to Participate in the Basic Screening Survey

MDH ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Basic Screening Survey for Third Graders

The Basic Screening Survey (BSS) is a voluntary, non-invasive, open-mouth, dental health, and growth screening administered by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)'s Oral Health Program and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership to assess the state's dental health and overall health among third graders in public schools.

Dental disease is the most common chronic childhood illness in America; if not treated, it can cause pain, infection, and tooth loss. It can also create problems with eating, speaking, and learning. That is why it is important for the state to monitor children's oral health and overall health and develop programs and policies to address dental disease, health disparities, and healthy growth.

Information we collect

MDH has contracted with a team of licensed dental professionals to screen third graders at randomly selected schools across Minnesota. The team will assess:

- The number of teeth with untreated and treated decay.
- The number of molar teeth with dental sealants.
- Need for dental treatment.
- Height and weight.

How we use the information

The screening team will notify your school's nurse or health representative of any student with an urgent dental need for follow-up with that child's parent or guardian. MDH will combine results from each student who participates in the BSS into a school-level summary report that will be shared with the school administrator and nurse or health administrator. Schools can use information from the summary report to identify needs and opportunities to improve the health of their students.

MDH will also combine results from each school that participates in the BSS into a statewide summary report that will be shared publicly. This data helps inform state programs and policies to improve the health of children in Minnesota.

How we protect your child's information

The names of schools and third graders who participate in the survey are kept private and will not be shared with anyone outside the MDH Oral Health Program and Statewide Health Improvement Partnership. After the dental team screens all third-grade participants and

notifies any parents or guardians of urgent needs, the names of children and their student identification numbers are removed and are not included in the dataset analyzed by the MDH Oral Health Program and Statewide Health Improvement Partnership.

Participation in BSS is voluntary

Participation in the Basic Screening Survey is voluntary. Parents or guardians can choose to not have their child participate in the dental health screening, the height and weight measurements, or both.

Benefits of participating

Children and their parents or guardians will be informed of any urgent dental care needs and be provided with a list of low-cost dental clinics who can help.

Schools will receive:

- Custom school report showing the overall oral health status of third graders in their school.
- Toothbrush kits with educational flyers.
- Additional training and educational materials for school nurses.

Risks of participating

There are no risks to schools and students who participate in the Basic Screening Survey. School staff and students miss some time away from the classroom to participate.

How we protect your child from exposure to COVID-19

The MDH screening team will follow all school COVID-19 policies. Students will be offered a disposable mask with ear loops to wear during the screening. The team will be wearing eye protection, N95 respirators, gowns, and vinyl gloves to protect themselves and students from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. They will use alcohol-based hand sanitizers and replace their gloves for each student screened. All working surfaces such as tables and chairs will be wiped down before and after use with disinfectants. Students and screeners will complete a COVID-19 screener, which includes answering two questions on recent symptoms and potential exposures and a head thermometer reading. Those who have a fever, or other symptoms of COVID-19 or a potential exposure will not be engaged in screening activities.

Public health authority to collect data

MDH is authorized to conduct public health surveillance activities under [Minnesota Statutes, section 144.05, subdivision 1\(1\)](#). Data collected by MDH on individuals are health data under [Minnesota Statutes, section 13.3805, subdivision 1](#), and are classified as private data on individuals; these data are not discoverable, pursuant to [Minn. Stat. § 144.658](#). The MDH Oral Health Program and Statewide Health Improvement Partnership will not share any private health data collected by the BSS except as required by law.