



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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CHILDREN IN NORTH COUNTY TO BE PAMPERED WITH PREVENTION *Free Dental Sealant and Fluoride Varnish Provided to Children with No Dental Resources*

Over 250 children are expected to participate in an important event to protect their teeth. A free dental sealant and fluoride varnish clinic will be held from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, March 4 at North County Health Services in San Marcos to accommodate the many children in San Diego County with no dental resources. County Chairman Bill Horn and the San Diego County Dental Society funded the clinic, which is being coordinated by the County Health and Human Services Agency's North County Dental Task Force.

"We are so pleased to offer this clinic for the first time in San Marcos," said Chairman Horn, who funded a similar clinic last year with the Indian Health Council in Valley Center. "The County of San Diego is committed to improving the health of our kids. Together, we can make a difference."

Tooth decay is the most common infectious disease among children, accounting for 5.1 million school hours lost annually in the nation. "Placement of dental sealants and fluoride varnish on teeth is a safe and painless way to help prevent cavities," according to Peggy Yamagata, R.D.H., M.Ed., with the County's Dental Health Initiative.

Unfortunately, many children do not receive routine dental care and prevention services due to lack of insurance. In fact, for every child without medical insurance in this country, it is estimated that over twice as many lack dental insurance. Adding to this problem is the shortage of dental professionals in some areas of North San Diego County.

Over 35 volunteers, including numerous dental professionals, will provide free dental screening, preventive care and health education for children and their families. Call (619) 692-8858 for appointments, which are available for children through age 18 who are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Walk-in patients will be seen as space permits. North County Health Services is at 150 Valpreda Road, San Marcos.

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