



Letter from Fadra Whyte, DMD, MPH and Thomas R. Coleman, MD, MS

*County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
Medical Care Services and Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services Branch*

Dear Medical Colleagues:

First, thank you very much for all your efforts and time around oral health. We all know that oral health is linked to systemic health, and one cannot happen without the other.

Dental caries in children is correlated with poor school performance, missed school days, emergency room visits and hospitalizations, pain, poor self-esteem, and poor nutrition. In some children, severe dental decay can have a negative effect on other comorbidities such as cardiac disease and diabetes.

By adding fluoride varnish application for all children 0-20 years old at the well-child visit, you are providing an easy, quick, safe, and effective way to help prevent dental caries in children. Fluoride varnish, combined with nutritional counseling and a referral to a dentist by age one or 6 months after the first tooth erupts, is in line with the recommendations from both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

We know that well-child appointments are busy, and again, we thank you and your teams for providing this valuable service for your patients.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fadra Whyte".

Fadra Whyte, DMD, MPH
Chief Dental Officer
Medical Care Services Administration
Medical Care Services Department

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas R. Coleman MD, MS".

Thomas R. Coleman, MD, MS
Medical Director
Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services
Public Health Services Department