

## **Tips for Maximizing Sealant Program Participation**

- Promoting the program to school administration and staff, parents, and students is essential to create awareness and gain participation and support for the program.
- Try to include consent packets with the distribution of materials at the beginning of the school year to increase the return rate by parents/guardians. In some school districts, two distributions may work well: one at the start of the school year for schools scheduled in September to December, and a later distribution for schools scheduled January to June.
- If the return rate is low, distribute forms again to the families of the children who did not return a form, possibly with a note to the parents or “Second Notice” at the top of the consent form.
- Develop a rapport with the school nurses, administration, teachers, and staff to help promote participation and collection of consent forms. It is helpful to have someone at the school who is an enthusiastic advocate for the program.
- Teacher and staff trainings work well. Be sure principals, teachers, nurses are well informed about the benefits of the program.
- Reminders to parents and families of sealant dates, when to expect consent forms and when to return consent forms. Many schools utilize automated phone messages to remind parents and families. This is a very useful tool.
- Provide information to parents through the school’s website, calendar, e-mail, newsletters, school lunch menus, parent meetings, parent facilitators, community newspapers, etc.
- Promote the sealant program through health fair. Contact local organizations, as appropriate, to publicize the sealant program to parents.

