



Keep Your Patients' Smile Healthy Too!

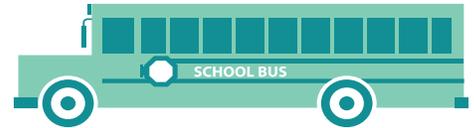
with Fluoride Varnish Application

Did You Know?

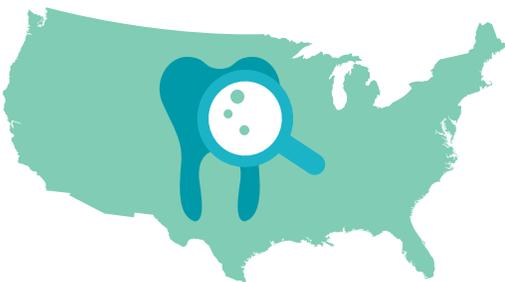
Tooth decay is the most common preventable childhood disease.

But, according to the Well-Ahead Louisiana Bright Smiles for Bright Futures Project, among Louisiana's third graders:

- 65.7% had dental caries experience
- 41.9% had untreated cavities
- 42.7% had to be referred to a dentist for further treatment



In children ages 6 to 11 years old, tooth decay is five times more common than asthma and four times more common than obesity.



You, and your staff, are the first line of defense against illness and disease in our children. You can, and should, play a role in keeping thier smiles healthy.

Applying fluoride varnish during routine well visits is becoming a standard of care in pediatrics nationwide. From a very early age, it provides the most effective protection against tooth decay for children.

The Fluoride Varnish 411

- Fluoride varnish is a gel substance that is applied directly to the teeth. It takes less than two minutes to apply and dries almost instantly.
- **Medicaid reimburses \$24.06 each time fluoride varnish is applied.** Eligible patients are six months to five years old. The qualifying Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) code is 99188. To be reimbursed, the varnish must be applied as part of a routine well visit. Reimbursement is limited to once every six months per patient.
For more information, visit http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Informational_Bulletins/16-07/1B16-07_revised6.27.17.pdf.
- In a 1,000 count package, fluoride varnish is about \$1.39 per dose and has a two-year shelf life. You can purchase fluoride varnish from Henry Schein, Incorporated. It is available in fun flavors that children love!

Get Smiles For Life Certified!

A lifetime fluoride varnish application certification is available online and takes about an hour to complete. The certification is free and continuing education units are given at the end. Become Smiles for Life certified, by following the steps below!

- ✓ Visit the Smiles for Life website (www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org) and review the training module: Course No. 6: Caries Risk assessment, Fluoride Varnish & Counseling.
- ✓ Complete and pass the exam. Receive continuing education credits.
- ✓ Maintain a copy of the successfully completed post assessment certificate in employee records.

Who Can Apply Fluoride Varnish?

In addition to pediatricians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified medical assistants can apply the varnish.

All must be Smiles for Life certified.

