



ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

19 Public Square, Suite 150, Belleville, IL 62220

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 2/23/2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February is National Children's Dental Health Month

St. Clair County Health Department now offers Fluoride Varnish Treatments for teething babies up to 6 years old

Belleville, IL – February 23, 2024 – February is National Children's Dental Health Month. According to the [CDC](#) (Center of Disease Control and Prevention) cavities, also known as caries or tooth decay, are the most common chronic disease of childhood, yet cavities are preventable. Children who have poor oral health often [miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't](#). Untreated cavities can cause pain, infections, and can lead to problems eating, speaking, and learning. More than 1 in 5 children aged 2 to 5 years has at least one cavity in their baby teeth. Children from low-income families are more than twice as likely to have untreated cavities, compared with children from higher-income households.

None-the-less, cavities are preventable with a healthy diet, good dental habits and fluoride varnish treatments to help prevent tooth decay. Fluoride varnish treatments are thin coatings that when painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars) can prevent cavities (tooth decay) for many years. Sealants (fluoride varnish) protect the chewing surfaces from cavities by covering them with a protective shield that blocks out germs and food. Once applied, sealants protect against 80% of cavities for 2 years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to 4 years. Sealants are a quick, easy, and painless way to prevent most cavities children get in the permanent back teeth where 9 in 10 cavities occur. A tooth without a cavity is stronger and healthier than a tooth with a filling or untreated decay. Sealants are also less expensive and easier to apply than fillings.

St. Clair County Health Department is now offering Fluoride Varnish Treatments for teething babies up to six years old. Children 0-36 months who are on Medicaid & other select Medicaid



<https://health.co.st-clair.il.us/>





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Managed Care Organizations (MCO's), as-well-as children up to six years old who have commercial insurance, select Medicaid MCO's and those who are private pay, are eligible for fluoride varnish treatments at the St. Clair County Health Department.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call us at 618-825-4500. We accept Medicaid, select Medicaid MCO's, Commercial Insurance and Private Pay including cash, check, charge (MasterCard, Visa, Discover) and Apple Pay.

**WE NOW OFFER
FLUORIDE VARNISH
TREATMENT**

Fluoride Varnish is a dental treatment that can help prevent tooth decay, slow it down, or stop it from getting worse.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE

CHILDREN AGES 0 - 36 MONTHS:

- Who are on Medicaid & other select Medicaid MCO's

CHILDREN UP TO 6 YEARS OLD

- Who have Commercial Insurance, Private pay & certain select Medicaid MCO's

**ST. CLAIR COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
CALL US AT (618) 825-4500

**Health
DEPARTMENT
ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

About the St. Clair County Health Department

The St. Clair County Health Department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in St. Clair County. Learn more about the St. Clair County Health Department at SccHealthDept.com. For more information, please contact Brenda Fedak at brenda.fedak@co.st-clair.il.us or via phone at 618-233-7703 ext. 4420.

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