May 24, 2012

PRESS RELEASE- For Immediate Release
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Dental Sealant Clinic for Children Age 6-14

TWIN FALLS-A clinic to provide dental sealants and fluoride treatments for children age 6-14 will be held Friday, June 15, at the College of Southern Idaho (CSI). The clinic is sponsored by the CSI Dental Assisting Program, in partnership with South Central Public Health District (SCPHD). The clinic will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Dental Clinic at CSI's Health Science and Human Services building located at 397 North College Road. The services are offered at a reduced fee: $5 per quadrant, with a maximum cost of $20. All services are provided by the dental assisting students supervised by a dentist.

Sealants are a simple and effective way to prevent the most common type of tooth decay in molar teeth. The chewing surfaces of molars have many deep pits and fissures (grooves) in which cavity-causing bacteria hide. These pits and fissures are hard to clean with a toothbrush. Sealants are plastic coatings that are painted on the teeth to seal the pits and fissures to help prevent tooth decay.

 "Placing sealants is painless and easy for children," explains Susie Beem, Dental Health Program Coordinator for SCPHD. "The tooth is cleaned, conditioned, dried, and painted with the plastic sealant."

Sealants only protect the chewing surfaces of molars but will not prevent decay between teeth, in the front teeth, or on tooth roots. Studies show that 84% of tooth decay in children occurs in the pits and fissures of permanent molars which are areas best protected by sealants. Without sealants, 75% of lower first permanent molars decay by age 13. While sealants do not completely protect children from tooth decay, they significantly reduce the chance of cavities.

To make an appointment for this clinic, call Susie Beem at 737-5946.

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