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**MEDIA ALERT**

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**SCPHD Offering Dental Sealant Clinics for Students at Carey School During November**

TWIN FALLS-South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is offering dental sealants to children in grades 1-8 at Carey School during November. Registered dental hygienists will be placing the sealants, which are a safe coating that is painted onto the chewing surfaces of a child's back teeth. This coating helps protect teeth from cavities by keeping germs and food out of the deep grooves in the surface of the teeth. Bacteria that cause cavities like to hide in these grooves. By preventing cavities, children can avoid pain and discomfort, which can help them succeed in school.

Fluoride varnish will also be provided. Fluoride varnish, which is a gel-like substance that is "painted" on the child's teeth with a small brush, strengthens tooth enamel to reduce and/or prevent tooth decay. The varnish is very safe since it's applied directly to the teeth.

The Carey School sent home permission slips with students, but parents or guardians can also access the form at [phd5.idaho.gov](http://phd5.idaho.gov).

SCPHD will bill Medicaid, Blue Cross, Regence, and Delta Dental for these services; however, children who are uninsured can still be seen at these clinics. If you have any questions about these dental sealant clinics, please call Susie Beem at 737-5946.

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