



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Peggy Yamagata (619) 692-8858

Cell (858) 204-1904

FREE DENTAL CLINIC OFFERED IN SAN MARCOS *Event Planned to Help Families Comply with New School Law*

More than 200 children are expected to participate in a free dental clinic on Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help protect their teeth from cavities and comply with a new California law (AB-1433) that requires all children to have an oral evaluation by May 31st of their first year in public school. The goal of the new law is to ensure students are healthy and pain-free so they can succeed in school.

The clinic is being funded by the San Diego County Employee Charitable Organization and the Alliance to the San Diego County Dental Society.

"I'm proud to say that County staff have made their own contributions to this important clinic," says Fifth District Supervisor Bill Horn, who himself has funded similar dental clinics in various locations around North County. "This shows the continued commitment of our staff to the children and families they serve each and every day."

Tooth decay is the most common infectious disease among children, accounting for 5.1 million school hours lost annually in the nation. "Fluoride varnish and dental sealants are safe and painless ways to help prevent cavities," says Peggy Yamagata with the County's Dental Health Initiative.

Unfortunately, many children do not receive routine dental care and prevention services due to lack of insurance. In fact, for every child without medical insurance in this country, it is estimated that there are more than 2.6 without dental insurance.

More than 40 volunteers, including dental professionals, will provide free fluoride varnish coatings, dental sealants, and health education for children and their families. The clinic is being coordinated by County HHS (Health and Human Services Agency) Dental Health Initiative/Share the Care, North County Health Services, North County Dental Task Force, and Health Initiative of the Americas.

Families interested in attending the clinic, held at North County Health Services in San Marcos (150 Valpreda Rd), should call (619) 692-8858 for an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

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