



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FREE DENTAL CLINIC OFFERED IN SOLANA BEACH *Dental Fluoride Varnish Provided to Children With No Dental Resources*

Witches, ghosts and the tooth fairy! Hundreds of children dressed in costumes are expected to participate in an important event to protect their teeth, just in time for Halloween. A free fluoride varnish clinic for children 1-18 years old will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, at the Solana Beach Library in Solana Beach. The clinic is for the many children in San Diego County with no dental resources. County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price funded the clinic, which is being coordinated by the North County Dental Task Force, County Health and Human Services Agency's Dental Initiative and Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Program.

"We are pleased to offer this free fluoride clinic for the first time in Solana Beach," says Supervisor Slater-Price, who has funded similar dental clinics in various locations around North County. "The County of San Diego strives to offer services for children that lead to optimal health and well-being."

Tooth decay is the most common infectious disease among children, accounting for 5.1 million school hours lost annually in the nation. "Fluoride varnish is a special coating painted on all teeth and is a safe and painless way to help prevent cavities," says Peggy Yamagata, R.D.H., M.Ed., with the County's Dental Health Initiative. Fluoride is incorporated in the enamel of developing teeth, making them more resistant to decay.

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 2.6 children without dental insurance.

Over 30 volunteers, including numerous dental professionals, will spend the day providing free fluoride varnish coatings, preventive care and health education for children and their families.

Families interested in attending the clinic should call (619) 692-8858 for an appointment.

"Walk-ins" are welcome.

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