

Questions Emailed to OrOHC K-12 Committee Members
Responses through December 14, 2020

The specific questions asked by one of our members were:

- **Are you getting into the schools? If you have had success getting into the schools, how did you do it?**
 - **Linda Mann (Capitol Dental):** *Yes, kind of. We were taking our van and parking it at schools and calling those kids from that school that were absent last year or that had unerupted teeth and scheduling them on one day, but we had such poor turn out that we have temporarily stopped.*
 - **Carolyn Tziu (Neighborhood Health Center):** *No schools just yet, but we have been able to serve our Head Start students through events held in parking lots of schools (and lots of help from the Head Start coordinators in the outreach piece). These events have been really successful. For our schools, we are focusing on rolling out virtual oral hygiene education and all schools have been excited about this.*
 - **Liz Wyles (Dental3):** *We were able to coordinate screening and fluoride services at enrollment events with PPS [Portland Public Schools] and Mount Hood Community College. Services took place between the end of Sept through the first week of November.*
 - **Jodi Loper (Boys and Girls Club, Salem/Marion/Polk):** *[They provide services at the Boys and Girls Club Dental Services Center.]*
 - **Kyle Allen (Virginia Garcia):** *No, we are not yet. Instead, we have been distributing dental kits and dental hygiene fliers to families at school lunch pick up. Our Head Start partners have just started receiving some of their students back and we are working with them to schedule an event in the future.*
 - **Kristen Hockema (Capitol Dental):** *We have been able to get into about half of our Head Start schools for screenings and fluoride. One Head Start isn't allowing us in the building, so we screen on the playground when each class is outside, changing gowns between each class. One Head Start is allowing us in the building, changing gowns between classes and making sure the classes aren't intermingled during the process. Two Head Starts plan to have evening drive-through screenings, also offering other health services and food boxes at that time. However, these have been scheduled and rescheduled a few times and have not happened yet.*

- As for our elementary schools: Most all of our schools are distant learning at this time. We have been taking our dental van one day each week to schools with the historically best return rates. The schools' Community Resource employees are helping to preschedule patients. We provide them with a list of kids that were seen last year but were unerupted. This has been successful because we already know that parents are interested in sealants and the molars are likely present and ready for sealants this year. That being said, some parents are unwilling to schedule because they don't want their

kids to miss any online learning sessions. It sounds like things are confusing enough without having to worry about missing "class."

-We are starting to schedule schools for February on in the districts that are eligible to return now. Some are still putting us off as they have lots to think about before bringing kids back. If a school declines sealants, we offer school wide screenings and fluoride.

- **Edward Smith-Burns (La Clinica):** *We have not provided dental outreach in schools and do not plan to do that for the 2020-21 school year.*
 - **Trina Gwaltney (Mercy Foundation):** *We started the year out serving schools who had K-3 on site with performing strict safe clinics within the schools. After just a couple sites our schools moved all students to distance learning. We have now switched gears to doing clinics based out of our vans at the scheduled school site and by appointment for parents to bring them. Our goal was to get 50% of students with the "yes" consent form. We have met that at our first 2 sites but did not for the 3rd.*
 - **Karen Phillips (Oregon Health Authority):** *OHA is expected to provided services to 2 schools early December. Both schools are currently open for in-person instruction for some to all grades. The county and school liaison has had regular communication with school staff. There have been no concerns thus far about safety or continuing services.*
- **Are you performing screenings outside of the school? If so, how are you doing it (please describe)?**
 - **Linda Mann:** *For Head Starts, yes. We are doing screenings in the foyer or outside via drive thru events (kids stay in their car seats).*
 - **Carolyn Tziu:** *We are performing screenings and providing fluoride varnish for Head Start students by setting up a station outdoors (under a covered area or canopy).*
 - **Liz Wyles:** *Yes. We purchased tents, tables, chairs, and storage equipment compatible with outside use.*
 - **Jodi Loper:** *We currently have "Stable Groups" of (20) elementary and middle school students in our ECC (Emergency Childcare) program in three of our BG Club locations. With the square footage of our locations, we have a total of 90 SKSD students. As staff, our dental team is scheduled to provide screenings in December prior to a two-week holiday closure. Paperwork will also be sent home to remind parent/guardians to request comprehensive services for their student in our dental clinic.*
 - **Kyle Allen:** *Our first event was scheduled for December 2nd at a low-income apartment complex. We were going to provide dental assessments and fluoride varnish alongside our medical team that was going to provide flu shots. When the governor released the new COVID restrictions this event was canceled. We are hoping to hold the new event now on January 13th.*

- **Kristen Hockema:** *Sometimes. Screenings on the playground under covered area or under a pop-up tent (sometimes provided by us but often provided by school).*
- **Edward Smith-Burns:** *Yes. La Clinica is doing regular “drive-up” flu clinics at our community clinics and at our school-based health centers, and Happy Smiles is providing both screening and fluoride applications. To date, we have provided services to about 90 kids and there are plans to continue this effort through May, 2020.*
- **Trina Gwaltney:** *Our vans are not self-sustaining (power, heat, etc.) so we are putting in work and effort to try and get them to be.*
- **Karen Phillips:** *No.*
- **Are you having difficulty with school space restraints? Did you find a solution?**
 - **Linda Mann:** *The sealant schools we have reached out to that are doing the hybrid model are still hesitant to let us in until COVID numbers go down further. One district has given us the go-ahead, but the schedule is complicated (kids there opposite days, shorter hours) - am thinking consent rates will be low, but we are going to go for it anyway.*
 - **Carolyn Tziu:** *Schools are not allowing anyone inside the building. They are open to outdoor screenings, but the biggest barrier to that is coming up with creative ways to get students to come to campus for dental.*
 - **Kyle Allen:** *Our partners do not want us indoors, so we are using pop-up tents as an approach to providing service outside.*
 - **Kristin Hockema:** *We have not been in any elementary schools yet, but I see this being a concern as class sizes need to be smaller and they will need more classrooms.*
 - **Edward Smith-Burns:** *NA.*
 - **Trina Gwaltney:** *[Once our vans are self-sustaining], it will lessen space constraints that we normally face in schools but also sustain the work to exposures at a minimum.*
 - **Karen Phillips:** *This has not been an issue for the 2 schools that we hope to visit next month.*
- **How are changes in the weather affecting your services (e.g., if you were doing screenings outside of the building)?**
 - **Linda Mann:** *Bundle up!*
 - **Carolyn Tziu:** *We’ve had a few cold and rainy days (and it will only get colder), but it’s worked out well when we are under a covered structure/entryway that has some walls to block the wind. Canopies don’t provide much protection.*

- **Liz Wyles:** *There were times when it got chilly, but we just bundled up and we were fine. We are currently talking with MHCC about adding more services in December. We did services with them in an open-air breezeway.*
- **Kyle Allen:** *Our team is cold at the school lunch pickup locations, but we have not had any major issues yet. I suspect that eventually we will encounter high winds or large amounts of rain that will put us in a difficult situation. We ended up purchasing large balance weights that can be placed on the supports of the pop-up tent to help hold it in place if we encounter a windstorm.*
- **Kristin Hockema:** *Providing screenings outside is becoming more challenging as the weather is colder and rainier. Our drive through events will have to be moved up in the day, as well, as it's getting darker earlier.*
- **Edward Smith-Burns:** *We have purchased additional tents and heaters in order to continue providing dental outreach during the winter months.*
- **Karen Phillips:** *We will be inside the building.*

Other questions:

- **Are you providing services? If not, why? If yes, please explain how.**
 - **Linda Mann:** *Yes, mostly with Head Start now.*
 - **Carolyn Tziu:** *We've created a workflow that follows CDC/OHA guidelines on infection control and set up services as a drive-through station, where parents can pull up their car and their child can get out of the car to be screened (some programs prefer students stay in the car for the screening). We've combined these events with vision screenings that are required at the start of the school year (for Head Start only). This incentivizes parents to come to the screenings. In anticipation of serving schools, we've switched to Glass Ionomer Sealants instead of Resin-based, to avoid aerosol-generating procedures.*
 - **Jodi Loper:** *With limited updates to one operatory, we reopened our dental clinic in October. We are currently seeing one patient in the clinic at a time and have extended our appointment times to allow for COVID health check-in and high touch, waiting room disinfection prior to the next patient's arrival. In December, our contractor is scheduled to return and complete our clinic remodel - enclosing remaining two open operatories so we can return to multiple (staggered) appointments.*
 - **Kyle Allen:** *We have planned service events, but they have been delayed by the virus spike over these last few months. Our partners are reluctant to allow us to provide services on site and instead ask that we direct them off-site for care which is why we are using the dental fliers to direct them into our clinics.*
 - **Edward Smith-Burns:** *We are not providing services in schools, but we are providing services as described above. In addition, we are in the process of videotaping our dental*

education presentations and adding voiceover to our Power Point materials and plan to make those available to the schools we serve beginning in January. Lastly, we have ordered 10,000 dental kits and are working with our school partners and the postal service to mail the kits to each student along with a note to let them know that we look forward to seeing them again as soon as possible.

- **Trina Gwaltney:** *We are currently scheduling with our local Boys and Girls club where we had not served prior because of duplication.*
- **Karen Phillips:** *Our program offers dental screenings and dental sealants only. We have previously screened all “yes” participants then pulled students for sealants. We are modifying this to screening outside of the classroom, one student at a time then moving to the next classroom or cohort. We will be providing GI sealants using the modified, non-AGP technique. We are expanding our services to any grade that is present at that school building or school-building cluster.*
- **What challenges are you having *right now* providing services?**
 - **Linda Mann:** *Schools not wanting us back in yet.*
 - **Carolyn Tziu:** *Figuring out how to incentivize students to come to an event on campus, when there is no other need for students to be on campus otherwise, and how to get parents on board for events this year (there may be fears around COVID, transportation barriers, etc.).*
 - **Jodi Loper:** *Unable to provide our transportation services due to safety for staff, and funding not available to give bus passes. We have students that have canceled appointments due to transportation. Ongoing struggle to secure PPE especially due to budget limitations to stock up at this time.*
 - **Kyle Allen:** *Schools are still completely distance learning and our fluoride varnish partners are reluctant to allow access to their children with virus cases increasing.*
 - **Edward Smith-Burns:** *Most students are distance learning, and there is no plan at this time to return to “on-site” education. Most students in the Phoenix-Talent school district have been displaced by the Almeda fire.*
 - **Trina Gwaltney:** *We are currently working off fund-raised dollars and continuing to apply for grants.*
 - **Karen Phillips:** *Most schools in our 2-county service area are offering distance learning only. We will be revisiting their plans soon.*
- **What successes have you had (or what challenges have you overcome)?**
 - **Carolyn Tziu:** *We’ve had success getting all schools to include dental in their Reopening Blueprints, so that if we are able to hold an event at school we don’t have anything in the way of being able to do that. Schools that had initially opted out of dental for the*

entire year were able to come around and are now open to services. This change of heart came through perseverance and through giving them exactly what they needed for the Reopening Blueprints, and essentially assuring them that dental events will not add anything else to their plate this year.

- **Liz Wyles:** *475 screened; 443 have received fluoride.*
- **Jodi Loper:** *In addition to clinic upgrades and redirection for our clinic entrance into the facility, we updated and were able to complete transition of most of our patient paperwork electronically to limit contact during appointments.*
- **Kyle Allen:** *We have had great success in working with schools on dental kit distribution at the school lunch pick up locations. We expect to have visited all of our traditional school locations over the next few months.*
- **Edward Smith-Burns:** *Our dental outreach at La Clinica “drive-up” flu clinics has been well received. We have seen an increase in the number of patients we see at each consecutive event.*
- **Trina Gwaltney:** *We had our annual festival of trees virtually and raised a portion of what we would have. We are thankful for that portion to be able to continue this work into the spring and hope to get 1 round in with our schools.*
- **Karen Phillips:** *A hopeful success - we will find out in a couple of weeks- is that it appears that we will be able to provide services in two schools. I think that expanding services to all grades present for in-person learning will help mitigate what we expect to be lower numbers of participating students overall.*
- **Other information you think would be useful to our members.**
 - *No comments submitted.*