

Date: 26/11/2018
Ref: Epi Survey 18/19
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Dear Colleague,

National Dental Epidemiology Programme for England, Oral Health Survey of 5 year old children

As the Director of Public Health for Leicestershire County Council I am writing to tell you about the national dental survey about the oral health of 5 year old children which is taking place across the country. This survey takes place bi-annually and is taking place again in the 18/19 academic year. This is part of the NHS Dental Epidemiology Programme for England, co-ordinated by the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD). This is on behalf of Public Health England.

The overall aim is to support actions to improve oral health, reduce health inequalities and improve the provision of treatment services. Locally this survey will be carried out by a team from Community Dental Services CIC, who have many years' experience conducting oral health surveys (www.communitydentalservices.co.uk).

A number of primary schools within Leicestershire County Council Local Authority area have been randomly selected and are requested to take part in this year's survey. You do not need you to send class lists of Reception and Year 1 pupils, as Leicestershire County Council have set up an Information Sharing Agreement with CDS that allows us to share class lists with them.

This agreement sets out the legal basis for sharing information and the security requirements placed upon CDS for the use and ultimate disposal of information when no longer required. CDS will let you know the names of the children selected to be involved who will be the correct age on the day of the examination and will supply the letters to be sent home with the children.

On the day of the examination the dentist will use a light and a sterile mirror, it takes a couple of minutes per child, and it is hoped this will cause very little disruption to your school programme. Parents will be informed by letter if it is felt their child would benefit from a more detailed examination in a dental surgery. This survey does not interfere with, or replace any arrangement they may have with their own dentist.

Positive consent from a parent/guardian will need to be obtained before any child can be included in this survey, and CDS will be liaising closely with your school regarding this process. Community Dental Services fieldwork teams will shortly be making contact with school to organise convenient dates for the survey to take place Leicestershire County Council fully endorses this valuable survey.

I do hope you will feel able to support this survey. If you have any questions the fieldwork team will be able to answer them. In the meantime should you wish to contact them, please contact Kate Peniket, Senior Dental Nurse with Community Dental Services on: 01234 310215.

Yours sincerely

Mike Sandys
Director of Public Health