

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



## Oral Health—Back to School

With vaccine now readily available to community members, it is time to return to receiving essential health services. The pandemic has challenged the dental community in numerous ways. Temporary shutdowns and postponed preventive dental care have significantly affected dental treatment needs in all populations, especially children. The I-Smile™ program approaches the "Dental Home" as a team-based approach to dental care; dentists provide treatment and evaluation while other health professionals (such as dental hygienists, primary care providers, and nurses) provide oral screenings, education, anticipatory guidance, and preventive services as needed.

Preparing to return back to school should include scheduling health visits with doctors AND dentists. Students enrolling in Kindergarten and 9th grade are required to submit a Certificate of Dental Screening with their enrollment packet. The purpose of the dental screening requirement is to improve the oral health of Iowa's children. Dental screenings help with early detection and treatment of dental disease, promote the importance of oral health for school readiness and learning, and contribute to statewide surveillance of oral health. Dental screenings are provided by an integrated network of health care professionals to supplement Iowa's dental workforce. Our I-Smile™ Coordinator, serves as the "hub" of this network, partnering with schools to assist students who need a screening or require follow-up dental care. Dentists, dental hygienists, primary care providers, and nurses are able to complete the screening for Kindergarten students, but 9th grade screenings must be performed by a dentist or hygienist.

A dental screening certificate for kindergarten is valid from age three years to four months after school enrollment date, while a ninth grade screening certificate is only valid from one year prior to enrollment to four months after school enrollment date.

Contact our I-Smile™ Coordinator at (563) 326-8645 if you need assistance finding dental care or for more information!



### OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

### OUR VISION:

Scott County—  
A safe and healthy community.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

- *There will not be an August Scott County Board of Health meeting.*

## Links

- [Scott County I-Smile® Program](#)
- [SCHD Immunization Program](#)
- [COVID-19 Information](#)

# COVID-19 Prevention

### Recommendations are the Same—So We Know What to Do!

We will soon be entering our second fall during the COVID-19 pandemic. We may be done with COVID-19, but the coronavirus is not yet done with us. With new variants circulating in our community (Delta being the most common—and more contagious currently), we must keep up with tried and true public health measures to protect those who cannot be vaccinated and to keep the virus from spreading even more widely. If you are not yet vaccinated, wear a face mask when around others. It's incredible how successful this can be at protecting you when worn correctly. Wash your hands often—we have all likely enjoyed the longer time periods without routine illness that many have experienced due to better hand hygiene (handwashing!).

### The Best Form of Protection is VACCINATION!

Get a COVID-19 vaccine if you are eligible and have not already—you will have full protection 2 weeks after being fully vaccinated.



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