

Guidance for Dental Screening During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

March 2, 2021

This document outlines guidance and considerations for child, resident, and staff safety as dental screenings are conducting during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each setting is unique and not all strategies will always be applicable.

Statutes and Regulations:

72-5201. Annual free dental inspection; exceptions. The boards of education of cities of the first and second class and school boards of school districts are hereby required to provide for free dental inspection annually for all children, except those who hold a certificate from a legally qualified dentist showing that this examination has been made within three months last past, attending such schools. History: L. 1915, ch. 308, § 1; L. 1919, ch. 263, § 1; June 17; R.S. 1923, 17-5201.

72-5202. Inspectors; regulations. Said boards of education and district boards of each school shall provide a place of inspection and designate some competent, licensed dentist or dentists to make such inspection, and such boards of education and district boards may fix a compensation for such services, which sum may be paid out of the school fund of each school for the services rendered therein, and said boards of education for their respective cities and the county superintendent of public instruction for school districts are hereby authorized to make all necessary rules and regulations for the proper conduct of such inspection and carrying into effect all of the provisions of the preceding section, and furnish all necessary forms and blanks for the reports of such inspection. History: L. 1915, ch. 308, § 2; L. 1919, ch. 263, § 2; June 17; R.S. 1923, 72-5202.

72-5203. Certificate of inspection; dental work. Certificate of the result of such inspection, together with suggestions of requirements for the curing of any defects found shall be made by the party making such inspection, in duplicate, one copy of same to be furnished to the child examined, the other to be filed with the clerk of the school board to which said child belongs: Provided, however, That no work other than the inspection and report shall be performed by examining dentist without the consent of the parents or guardian of the child. History: L. 1915, ch. 308, § 3; L. 1919, ch. 263, § 3; June 17; R.S. 1923, 72-5203.

[Statute | Kansas State Legislature \(kslegislature.org\)](http://kslegislature.org)

Children/Residents:

- Hand hygiene: Have children/residents wash hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol prior to screening
- Cloth face coverings: Children/residents who are able to wear cloth face coverings should do so while waiting to be screened. KDHE recommends wearing a mask that fits snugly around the nose, mouth and chin and has multiple layers of fabric. Alternatively, a thinner disposable mask may be worn underneath a cloth face mask to improve the fit. No face coverings are worn during dental screening.

- Symptom screening: Consider conducting temperature checks and ask children/residents about symptoms and exposure, such as is listed on the CDC checklist before being screened. The checklist can be found here:
 - [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations | CDC](#)

Nurses, staff, and other screeners:

- **Hand Hygiene:** wash hands frequently or sanitize them frequently
- **PPE:**
 - The screener should wear gloves, a level three mask, isolation gowns and eye protection: goggles and/or face shield (glasses are not an acceptable substitute).
- **Symptom screening:** Staff should be doing temperature checks and/or symptom screening on community partners or volunteers doing dental screening. Nurses must do self-screening before screening children.

Cleaning and disinfecting:

- Surfaces in direct contact with children/residents should be disinfected between uses
- Consult the manufacturer's directions for the best solutions for cleaning and disinfecting screening equipment Any EPA-registered disinfectant is acceptable, however, know the contact time needed for proper disinfection. Considerations should be made to use disinfectants that are safer for persons with asthma, such as using hydrogen peroxide or alcohol wipes rather than bleach.
 - [List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Pesticide Registration | US EPA](#)
 - [Common Asthma Triggers | CDC](#)

Spacing and Environment

- You may choose to screen smaller groups of children/residents and space them throughout the year.
- Conduct screenings in a space large enough to accommodate physical distancing, is well ventilated, and has not been occupied by any sick child or staff.
- Rooms where screening are conducted should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to use and after use.
- Use rooms with separate entrance and exit when possible.
- Screenings can be conducted in the classroom, so the children stay in place.
- Screenings can be conducted in residents' room so the residents stay in place.
- Dental screening may be conducted outside.
- Document the date, time, and location where screening occur.

Reminders:

- Screening results may be taken from a dental examination reports if equivalent screening results are available and documented.
- A child/resident may be excused from a dental screening if the parent/guardian/caregiver brings a signed statement from a dentist stating the child/resident has had these screenings done in the past 3 months.

Children opting for year-long remote learning still need to comply with screening regulations. They either need to come to school/health department for screening or have a signed statement (see above)

For further information and References:

- [Statute | Kansas State Legislature \(kslegislature.org\)](#)
- [Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations \(ksde.org\)](#)
- [Operating schools during COVID-19: CDC's Considerations | CDC](#)
- [Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes | CDC](#)
- [Considerations for Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities | CDC](#)

Cleaning and Disinfection:

- [Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools – a Toolkit for School Administrators | CDC](#)
- [List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Pesticide Registration | US EPA](#)
- [Common Asthma Triggers | CDC](#)

Dental Screening Guidance:

- [Dental Screening Considerations for School Nurses in Return to School.pdf \(higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)

PPE Recommendations

- [2020 05 15 Interim Guidance Role of School Nurse in Return to School](#)
- [Guidance for Dental Settings | CDC](#)
- [ADA Interim Mask and Face Shield Guidance](#)