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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RECEIVES WISCONSIN SEAL-A-SMILE GRANT FUNDING**

Date: August 15, 2017  
From: Susan Lorenz R.N. M.S. Health Officer  
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Columbia County Health and Human Services has been awarded a \$23,832.00 Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile grant from the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. The Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile Program is a statewide dental sealant program that offers grants to local school-based programs targeting underserved children in schools with a free and reduced hot lunch (FRL) of greater than 35%.

Eighteen school buildings in eight different school districts qualified for the grant in Columbia County:

- 1) Cambria Friesland Elementary School
- 2) Cambria Friesland Middle School
- 3) Columbus Elementary
- 4) Fall River Elementary School
- 5) Fall River High School
- 6) Pardeeville Elementary School
- 7) Pardeeville Middle School
- 8) Portage Endeavor Elementary School
- 9) Portage Rusch Elementary School
- 10) Portage Lewiston Elementary School
- 11) Portage John Muir Elementary School
- 12) Portage Wayne Bartels Middle School
- 13) Portage Woodridge Elementary School
- 14) Randolph Elementary School
- 15) Rio Elementary School
- 16) Rio Middle/High School
- 17) Wisconsin Dells Spring Hill Elementary School
- 18) Wisconsin Dells Spring Hill Middle School

Columbia County Health and Human Services has contracted with Cindy Seubert, Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) to provide and coordinate the Columbia County Seal-A-Smile services while the child is in school. With this funding, dental screenings to at least 1100 children and dental sealants to at least 650 children will be provided. This program is not meant to be a substitution for regular dental visits.

#### **What will the Columbia County Seal-A-Smile program offer?**

- FREE sealants
- FREE fluoride varnish
- FREE tooth brushing instructions and oral health education
- FREE toothbrush and toothpaste

- A letter sent home explaining what services were done and suggestions for further treatment

**What is a sealant?**

- A sealant is a thin, tooth colored, plastic coating that is painted on a tooth to help prevent cavities from forming
- Your child will be checked to determine which teeth can have sealants, sealants will be done that same day

**What if your child already has sealants?**

- The Registered Dental Hygienist will check your child's sealants, and replace or repair those that may no longer be there

**What is a fluoride varnish?**

- A fluoride varnish is topical gel that is painted onto the teeth, making them stronger

**Did you know?**

- In the US alone, children miss about 52 million hours of school each year because of oral health problems
- Poor oral health and untreated oral diseases and conditions can largely affect the ability to learn
- 90% of decay in children's permanent teeth occurs on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, sealants serve as a physical barrier to the bacteria that cause decay

The Columbia County Seal-A-Smile dental sealant program is available at no charge whether or not your child is covered by dental insurance. The program will bill Medical Assistance or BadgerCare if your child is covered by these programs.

For more information about the Columbia County Seal-A-Smile dental sealant program, please call Susan Lorenz R.N. M.S. Columbia County Health Officer at 608-742-9227 or e-mail at [susan.lorenz@co.columbia.wi.us](mailto:susan.lorenz@co.columbia.wi.us).