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**Public Health England  
Dental Public Health Epidemiology Programme  
Dental health survey of 5-year olds 2018 to 2019**

**Please will you help with a survey of child dental health?**

We are asking parents of 5-year-old children to agree to them taking part in this national survey. There is more information on this sheet but, in short, you are being asked to sign the form below and return it to school to show you agree to your child having a very quick examination of their teeth in school. This is to collect information about whether dental health is improving in this age group and to allow different areas to be compared.

As part of the survey we will be asking the school to share information they already have, including date of birth, home postcode and ethnic group. The information about your child will be stored in a computer file which will be password protected and only dental staff, Public Health England staff and authorised users will have access to it.

All children should be taken to their own dentist for check-ups, advice and care.

**CONSENT TO TAKE PART – please return this page to school**

My child's name is (insert name)..... Class .....

Please tick appropriate boxes below:

I have read and understood the information in the leaflet for the above survey and I have had the opportunity to consider the information

Yes, I agree to my child taking part in the dental survey

Or No, I do not want my child to be included

Signed.....(parent or guardian) Date .....

Name (block capitals) .....

If you have any questions about the survey please phone Anna Jardine on 0203 049 1966, or have a look at the questions below.

**Q What is the survey about?**

This year surveys are being carried out all across England to find out more about dental health among 5-year-old children. The information will be used to plan local dental health services in the future.

Parents of children attending your child's school are being asked if they would agree to their child taking part by signing the form and returning it to school. Participation is voluntary, although if lots of children take part then the information is more accurate.

**Q Why your help is important**

The survey will produce much better information if lots of children to take part. It doesn't matter what their dental condition is like, we need to include those with big and little problems, those with perfect teeth and those with not-so-perfect teeth, those who attend their own dentist and those who don't.

The examining dentists just want to record what they find.

**Q Who is running the survey?**

An NHS dental team, including a fully qualified dental clinician, which is trained and experienced in carrying out surveys of dental health of very young children. The survey is being coordinated by Public Health England (PHE).

**Q Who is being asked to take part?**

All or some children at your child's school who will have had their 5th birthday by the time the survey team visit will be asked to take part.

The school has been selected at random from a list of all schools in the area and they have kindly agreed to host the survey team.

**Q What are volunteers being asked to do?**

The children will be asked to have a very simple and quick dental examination at school. The dentist or dental therapist and an assistant who are trained to do this work will only do a simple examination. No treatment will be provided. The dentist will use fresh disposable gloves and sterilised mirrors for each child. The check takes only a

few minutes and we will let you know if we find anything wrong. We would be pleased to see you at the school if you would like to be present.

This examination cannot be as thorough as the one done by your own dentist so parents should still take their children for regular check-ups with their own dentist.

**Q Can I withdraw my child from the study at any time?**

You are free to withdraw your consent at any stage before the examination by contacting the school and you do not need to give a reason for withdrawing. As the study is anonymous we will not be able to identify your child's information, so you can't withdraw it later on.

**Q Who will use the results?**

The results will be grouped together by PHE who will write a report which will be used by a range of people who will use the information to help with their work. This will include the NHS, to help with local planning of treatment services, to support local authorities with their responsibility for monitoring the health, including oral health, of their local population and the Department of Health.

A number of other government departments and agencies may also use the results. Survey information may also be shared with researcher partners who are viewed by PHE as fit to carry out suitable research.

Publications based on the data will be made available on the PHE website and might be published in journals from Spring 2020. You can see the results of similar surveys on this website: [www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/](http://www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/)

**Q Is the survey confidential?**

Yes, the information you give us will be treated as strictly confidential as directed by the Code of Practice adopted by the NHS and the General Data Protection Regulations, 2018, and will only be used for statistical research purposes.

As part of the survey we will be asking the school to share information they already have, including name, date of birth, home postcode and ethnic group. The information about your child will be stored in a computer file which will be password-protected and only dental staff and Public Health England staff will have access to it. No names or addresses will be recorded on the survey forms – just a postcode and a code for ethnic group.

The information will be used to produce statistics that will not identify any individuals; instead information about groups of people will be reported. Survey information is also

[Type text]

[Type text]

main survey

provided to other approved organisations for statistical purposes only. All such statistics produced are subject to similar codes and the same standards of protection are applied to your information at all times.

The consent forms and all other data will be securely transported and held by the survey team who will be the only people who will have access to it. As soon as the survey results are published the consent forms and other data will be securely disposed of by survey teams who are used to dealing with such information.

**If you have questions, comments or complaints contact:**

**Thank you very much for your help, and for returning the signed form to your child's school.**