



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS

Terence Farrell
Carol Aichele
Kathi Cozzone

MARGARET C. RIVELLO, M.B.A.
County Health Director

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Chester County Government Services Center
601 Westtown Road, Suite 290
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
610-344-6225 FAX: 610-344-6727
www.chesco.org/health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2009

News Release #34

For more information call 610-344-4452

School-based Dental Sealant Program Aims to Improve the Oral Health of Chester County Students

WEST CHESTER – The Chester County Health Department, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and local dental providers, announces the launch of the 2009 school-based Dental Sealant program.

Over the past two years, 515 students in Chester County elementary and middle schools have participated in the Dental Sealant program and over 2,000 sealants have been placed on premolars, first and second molars. Dental sealants are plastic coatings that protect against cavity-causing bacteria that tends to accumulate on the surfaces of children's teeth.

Margaret Rivello, Director of the Chester County Health Department, said, "The school-based Dental Sealant program provides an opportunity for Chester County children who might not have access to routine dental care to have dental sealants placed at no cost to the families." In the past, many schools in Pennsylvania have reported that children's complaints of toothaches or gum pain at school is a common occurrence.

"Many toothaches could be due to a cavity or cavities, and placement of dental sealants can prevent these dental emergencies," Rivello added.

For more information about the Dental Sealant program, visit [the Chester County Health Department website](http://www.chesco.org/health) or call 610-344-4452. For information on dental health and practicing good oral hygiene, visit <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us>.

###