

# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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An annual rite of spring has been rescheduled from June to May this year. Dental Day provides oral health checkups for about 200 Panhandle children annually. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year for Dental Day in the Panhandle – a program to provide oral health care to youth in need. Dental Day is a program in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry in Lincoln, Box Butte General Hospital, Gordon Memorial Hospital, participating local dentists and Panhandle Public Health District.

Kelly Dean, public health nurse with PPHD, said there is an ongoing need for children to see a dentist who do not have a dental home. “There are a lot of hygiene needs,” Dean said. “Some kids just need to have their teeth cleaned. Others require fillings, sealants or crowns.”

Oral health is an issue that doesn’t go away, but is often not evident, Dean added. “Your child could have problems with their teeth and you aren’t aware of them,” she said. The Dental Day visits provide oral health care for youth ages four to 19 and targets those without dental insurance.

Oral surgery is also a component of Dental Day, thanks to the donation of operating room and time from Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance. Dean said the hospital and cooperating dentists in many Panhandle communities make Dental Days a success, year after year.

About 20 hygiene students and 30 dental students along with hygiene and dental faculty come as well. UNMC dentistry students will see patients May 20 and 21 at Gordon Memorial Hospital, the Alliance dental clinic of Drs. Maxwell and Wilcox the Chadron CAP-WN dental clinic with Dr. Gioia and Summit Dental in Sidney. Drs. Neal and Hlavinka are the dentists at Sidney.

To make an appointment for the required pre-screening, patients are asked to call one of the clinics above or this additional list of screening dentists only:

- Dr. Jacoby – Bridgeport and Hemingford dental clinics
- Dr. Moody – Crawford
- Dr. Jensen – Oshkosh
- Dr. Giles – Alliance

Many of the school nurses in the Panhandle also have a packet of information for students in their school system. Parents may also speak to Dean for more information at 308-262-2217 or toll free at 855-227-2217.

For additional information about dental health or Dental Days, visit [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org). The purpose of the Panhandle Public Health District is to educate the region it serves about the prevention of epidemics, spread of contagious diseases, injury, illness and disability. The district is charged with promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors. They promote the quality and accessibility of health services and protection against environmental hazards. Through education, protection and promotion of these issues, the Panhandle Public Health District believes the quality of life of the residents they serve can be greatly improved.