



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Significant Dental Education Resource Now Available in 21 Languages**

May 6, 2024, Plymouth, MN – The Minnesota Oral Health Coalition (MOHC) announces the release of a fluoride varnish parent/guardian educational video in 21 languages. Fluoride varnish is a dental treatment that can help prevent tooth decay, slow it down, or stop it from getting worse. The fluoride varnish parent/guardian educational video explains what fluoride varnish is, its benefits to dental health, how it's applied to teeth and caring for teeth after application.

The video in 21 languages accompanies a fluoride varnish training video for medical and dental professionals. The languages are English, Somali, Hmong, Karen, Oromo, Spanish, Russian, French, Mandarin, Anuak, Georgian, Dari, Ukrainian, Laotian, Arabic, Amharic, Tagalog, Swahili, Vietnamese, Ojibwa, and Pashto.

Cavities (also known as tooth decay) are the most common chronic disease of childhood in the United States. Cavities is the breakdown, or destruction, of tooth enamel. Enamel is the hard outer surface of a tooth. Tooth decay can lead to cavities, which are holes in the teeth. Untreated cavities can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning. The good news is that cavities are preventable. Fluoride varnish can prevent about one-third (33%) of cavities in the primary (baby) teeth.

Fluoride varnish is widely used throughout Minnesota and the multi-language fluoride varnish parent/guardian videos are especially important to our Critical Access Dental (CAD) Providers. CAD providers are organizations serving patients, at least 85% of whom are not covered by private dental insurance. CAD providers are more likely to serve patients that are immigrants, non-English speaking, low-income, and/or uninsured, than other providers. Minnesota CAD providers, staff and patients they treat commonly speak up to 25 languages.

The fluoride varnish training and parent/guardian videos are available on the Minnesota Oral Health Coalition's YouTube Channel. A link may be found on their website <https://www.minnesotaoralhealthcoalition.org/resources/> or the YouTube Channel containing these and many other video resources: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJn\\_RooxLVcnhojqS92\\_AyQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJn_RooxLVcnhojqS92_AyQ)

The Minnesota Oral Health Coalition acknowledges the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation and 3M Health Care for their financial support of MOHC and for supporting efforts to expand access to preventive dental care for children.

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## MEDIA CONTACTS

The following CAD Providers are available to speak to the media:

### **Children's Dental Services**

Sarah Wovcha, JD, MPH

Executive Director

612-636-1577

<https://childrensdentalservices.org>

### **Community Dental Care**

Karen Flanagan Kleinhans, MHA

Chief Executive Officer

651-925-8425

<https://www.cdentc.org>

### **Community-University Health Care Center University of Minnesota School of Dentistry**

Professor Danae Seyffer, MDT

Clinical Associate Professor

Advanced Dental Therapist

612-624-5122

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