



NEWS RELEASE

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Free Dental Care Event for Children on August 5 in Chicago

Free exams satisfy mandatory dental screening for kindergarten

Naperville, Ill. (June 5, 2017) – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, in collaboration with Cook County Health & Hospitals System and Malcom X College, will provide a free day of dental care for Illinois children age 5 and younger on Saturday, August 5 in Chicago.

At the event, children will receive free preventive and diagnostic services such as cleanings, exams, fluoride treatments, sealants and X-rays. Preventive education and referrals for additional dental care will also be provided.

The event is part of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation’s Dentist By 1 program, which educates caregivers about the benefits of having children visit the dentist by age 1, as well as trains dentists and oral health professionals to help expand access to care. Children in Illinois don’t see their family dentist on average until they are nearly 3 years old.¹ Scheduling a dentist visit by age 1 allows the child and parent to establish a relationship with a dentist, which can help set the foundation for regular dental visits and oral health care habits.

“Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease and can affect a child as soon as teeth appear in the mouth,” said Lora Vitek, director of philanthropy & community relations for the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. “Tooth decay is preventable. In an effort to combat tooth decay, our Dentist By 1 program educates Illinois children and their caregivers about the importance of preventive care. This free day of dental care will make an immediate impact for many Illinois children and their families, and we are hopeful the education provided lasts a lifetime and results in improved oral health.”

The free day of dental care is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Malcom X College Dental Hygiene Clinic at 1900 West Jackson Blvd. in Chicago. Appointments are strongly recommended.

Parents and caregivers can schedule an appointment by visiting dentistby1.com/chicago, by calling 630-718-4844 or by emailing JOMalley@deltadentalil.com.

Spanish-speaking parents can visit dentistby1.com/illinois/events/spanishregistration/ or call 630-718-4957.

Appointments must be made by Wednesday, August 2. Dental visits without an appointment will be limited.

During the community service event, Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's Tooth Wizard and PlaqueMan from the Land of Smiles oral health education program will interact with children and their caregivers, educating them about good oral health habits. Each child will also receive an oral health kit with floss, a toothbrush, toothpaste and a dental care instructional sheet in English and Spanish.

Generous donations of dental supplies have been provided by Henry Schein Dental®. The event is also being supported by Crest/Oral-B®.

For more information about the Dentist By 1 program, visit dentistby1.com/illinois.

About Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois, a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois. In the past decade, combined efforts of Delta Dental of Illinois and Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation have provided more than \$3 million to programs and organizations in Illinois that improve the oral health of the residents of Illinois.

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¹2017 Delta Dental of Illinois Children's Oral Health Survey.