

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

For more information, contact: **Janelle Hansen**, 308-487-3600 Ext 105 or 866-701-7173

For the 10th consecutive year, students from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry will be heading west to be a part of Dental Day. Panhandle Public Health District and many local dentists are teaming up with UNMC College of Dentistry to provide much needed dental care to uninsured children. Free dental care will be provided to children ages 4-19 years on May 31st and June 1st at Dental Day sites in Sidney, Gordon, Alliance and Chadron.

School nurses and dental office staff are currently working to recruit children and schedule pre-screening appointments. Dental offices participating in the pre-screening and recruitment include Summit Dental and Life Smiles in Sidney, Bridgeport Dental Clinic, Dr. Jensen in Oshkosh, Hemingford Dental Clinic, CAPWN Dental in Chadron, and Dr. Maxwell/Dr. Wilcox, Dr Giles, Horizon West Dental Clinic in Alliance.

Once the children are pre-screened they are scheduled for an appointment on May 31 or June 1 at one of the Dental Day sites. This year the Dental Day sites include Summit Dental and Life Smiles in Sidney, Dr. Maxwell/Dr. Wilcox offices in Alliance, CAPWN Dental Clinic in Chadron and Gordon Memorial Hospital. Any children requiring surgical services will be treated at Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance on May 31st.

“Last year over 200 kids participated in Dental Day,” Janelle Hansen, health educator with PPHD stated. “Such a great number of kids receiving dental care on Dental Days requires extensive planning and coordination with school nurses, participating dentists, hospitals, UNMC, and community volunteers. We are glad to be a part of such a great program to help ensure children in the Panhandle have their dental health needs met.”

If you know of a child who could benefit from Dental Day, please contact one of the dentist offices mentioned above or Janelle Hansen at PPHD at 308-487-3600 Ext 105 or 866-701-7173 Ext 105.

For additional information about dental health or Dental Days, visit 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.