



# Healthy Smile Happy Child

The Manitoba Partnership for the  
Prevention of Early Childhood Tooth Decay

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2021—MARCH 2022

### Preamble

Healthy Smile Happy Child (HSHC) is an intersectoral, collaborative partnership that takes an upstream community development approach to engage communities in Early Childhood Caries (ECC) prevention strategies and promotion of early childhood oral health. ECC, also known as early childhood tooth decay or cavities, is a destructive, yet preventable, form of tooth decay in young children, particularly those living in disadvantaged populations. Manitoba experiences excessive demand and wait times for pediatric dental surgery under general anesthesia. This burden and the need for effective prevention and sustainable oral health promotion strategies led to the development of the HSHC partnership.

Key objectives of the HSHC project have been to 1) gain community acceptance of the importance of the issue of ECC, 2) build on existing programs which target young children, 3) increase parental knowledge of ECC prevention, 4) increase knowledge of existing service and health providers of the importance of prevention, and 5) encourage existing service and health providers to incorporate prevention activities into their practice.

**Submitted by:** Daniella DeMaré, HSHC Coordinator





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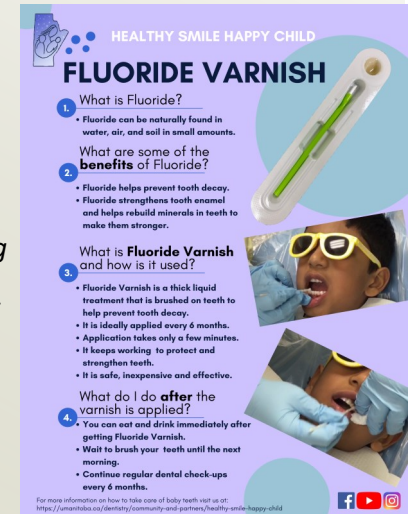
## Northern Regional Health Authority

Oral Health promotional activities have not been possible as group gatherings, school presentations and travel is not allowed at this time.

## Interlake – Eastern Regional Health Authority

The Wellness Facilitator requested an adaptation of the *HSHC Fluoride Varnish information sheet* so that they could use it for the at-risk adult population.

The region continues to work on the Caries Risk Assessment and fluoride varnish application component of HSHC's *Working Together to Improve Early Childhood Oral Health* research project. HSHC participated virtually in a Lunch and Learn at the Pine Falls Health Centre so that staff would be more aware of the research project.



HSHC presented virtually, on February 10th, to the *Whole Baby Love Healthy Baby Group* in Selkirk. Ten parents attended the session.

## Prairie Mountain Health

Oral health promotion activities remain halted due to focus on Covid-19 activities.

## Southern Health-Sante-Sud

Staff continues to be redeployed to Covid-19 activities.

## Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

An Access River East Families First Home Visitor requested two hundred copies of the Lift the Lip resource.

The Manager of Community Health Services & Family Doctor Finder Program introduced the HSHC provincial coordinator to WRHA communications contacts in order to have HSHC educational posts shared on their social media and electronic signs.

*SMILE plus* has returned to conducting oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications in approximately half of the daycares they work with.

*La Coalition francophone de la petite enfance du Manitoba* conducted a presentation for *Healthy Baby* on teething and caring for baby teeth. They are redoing their early intervention programs to include an oral health component.





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### Provincial HSHC Partnership Activities

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#### *HSHC Intersectoral Dental Health Promotion Group Meetings*

During this reporting period HSHC held a Full Partnership meeting on December 7, 2021 and a Community Development meeting on February 2, 2022.

#### *Dental Hygiene Students*

Third year dental hygiene students continue to work with HSHC, creating social media posts and updating resources.

#### *Canadian Dental Association Oral Health Promotion Award*

In July of 2021 HSHC was named as the recipient of the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) Oral Health Promotion Award for 2021. The Oral Health Promotion Award is conferred on individuals or organizations who have improved

the oral health of Canadians through oral health promotion. On December 4, 2021 HSHC attended the 2021 CDA Award Recipients Online Reception to accept their award.



The award announcement can be found in CDA Essentials at the following:

<https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/services/essentials/2021/issue6/28/>

In addition to the celebration, CDA posted the acceptance video on their website at the following (HSHC starts at 5:35):

<https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/about/awards/>

There was also a write-up in the latest issue of CDA Essentials:

<https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/services/essentials/2021/issue6/28/>



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## Provincial HSHC Partnership Activities (continued)



### Social Media

With the assistance of 3rd year Dental Hygiene students, HSHC was active on social media with posts for Holidays such as Christmas, Remembrance Day and St. Patrick's Day as well as posts for Nutrition Month. On Facebook the post, *5 Ways to Prevent Tooth Decay* was the most viewed of the reporting period, with 1.4K views. Total views for the reporting period was 17.6K with a total of 706 followers by the end of the period.

After seeing the Instagram post, *5 Ways to Prevent Tooth Decay*, a follower asked when a child should stop thumb sucking. HSHC provided the answer and shared the link to the resource, *Thumb & Soothers* for more information.

<https://umanitoba.ca/dentistry/sites/dentistry/files/2021-05/oral-health-thumbs-and-soothers-eng.pdf>

## Other Provinces/North America

A Pediatric Resident at the Alberta Children's Hospital inquired about when children should begin brushing with fluoride toothpaste.

## Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)

### Student Contributions

Students continue to create social media posts and update HSHC resources.







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## Feedback/Evaluation/Research

### Scaling up Healthy Smile Happy Child

- A new oral health promoter, Jaehee Jin, has been hired by the Scaling up research team.
- A follow-up focus group was completed on April 5, 2022 with a Point Douglas group. Future focus groups are being planned for the summer and fall.



The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority has been assisting HSHC and the Schroth Research lab in recruitment for various studies by sharing information on their social media. Ads have also been posted on the Winnipeg Parent News Magazine's social media.

### Papers:

Williams T, Boyle J, Mittermuller B, Carrico C, **Schroth RJ**. Association between vitamin D and dental caries in a sample of Canadian and American Preschool Aged Children. *Nutrients*. 2021 Dec 14;13(12):4465. doi: 10.3390/nu13124465.

Folayan MO, Obiyan M, El Tantawi M, Kemoli A, Al-Batayneh OB, Gaffar B, **Schroth RJ**; Early Childhood Caries Advisory Group. An ecological study on the association between early childhood caries and intimate partner violence in 20 low- and middle-income countries: 2007-2017. *AAS Open Research*. 202, 4:39. doi.org/10.12688/aasopenres.13237.2.

Hussein AS, Almoudi MM, Abu-Hassan MI, **Schroth RJ**, Saripudin B, Firdaus Mohamad MS. Serum and saliva vitamin D levels in relation to dental caries in young children. *J Clin Pediatr Dent*. 2021 Dec 1;45(6):414-420. doi: 10.17796/1053-4625-45.6.8.

**Schroth RJ**, Pierce A, Rodd C, Mittermuller B, Moffatt MEK. Improvement in iron and iron-related nutritional status following pediatric dental surgery to treat severe early childhood caries. *Pediatric Dent*. 2022 Jan 15;44(1):58-66.