SCHOOL ORAL HEALTH SERVICES
In partnership with local health departments

HEALTH DEPARTMENT of Northwest Michigan

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE FACT SHEET

THE SILVER BULLET FOR CAVITIES

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) helps to stop the progression of dental cavities. Used overseas for more than 80 years and approved by the FDA in 2014, SDF is a colorless, odorless liquid that is used to prevent cavities from getting bigger. While SDF is effective, your child will still need to see their dentist for an evaluation of the tooth with the cavity that was treated. A referral from a Registered Dental Hygienist will be given.

Untreated Decay SDF Treated Decay

HOW IT WORKS

- SDF prevents the growth of bacteria that causes cavities, while preserving healthy part of the tooth.
- Fluoride helps repair tooth enamel while the silver diamine has antimicrobial properties, in this specialized mixture.
- SDF is not a fluoride varnish.

BENEFITS OF SDF

- Stops tooth decay
- Fast and easy
- No need to numb or drill
- Does not hurt
- Healthy part of tooth does not stain
- Preserves healthy parts of tooth until able to be seen by a dentist
- Useful for those with special healthcare needs

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Cavity treated will stain black permanently, this means it's working
- Brown or white stain may appear **if** SDF touches gum or cheek
- Stain on gum/ cheek is harmless and will disappear in 1-4 weeks
- Treated tooth may required additional applications

RISKS OF NOT USING

- Tooth pain from cavities
- Untreated cavities will grow
- Losing the tooth and/or needing more work to save the tooth

WHEN NOT TO USE

- Silver allergy
- Painful sores/raw areas on the gums or in the mouth
- Deep cavities cannot be treated with SDF

No eating or drinking 30 minutes after SDF is applied.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Health Department of Northwest Michigan
nwhealth.org
800-432-4121

Central Michigan District Health Department
cmdhd.org
2-1-1 OR 888-960-1630

District Health Department #10
dhd10.org
2-1-1 OR 888-217-3904 option #2

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department
bldhd.org
833-674-2159

Grand Traverse County Health Department
gtcountymi.gov/2740/Health-Department
833-674-2159

Community Connections Hub: Northwest/North Central/Northeast northernmichiganchir.org