

## DENTAL HYGIENIST

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This position exists in the County Health Department and involves responsibility for assisting in planning, developing and performing dental public health education, preventive and treatment programs within the community. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Dental Director or licensed dentist. The Dental Hygienist may be required to oversee the work of subordinate paraprofessionals or clerical employees. Does related work as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Utilizes curriculum guides to develop effective, cognitive, behavioral objectives and prepares appropriate lesson plans for presentations to pre-schoolers through senior citizen age groupings;

Develops and utilizes a variety of evaluation tools to test progress toward the goals of the dental program;

Plans and conducts dental health educational programs for school health and teaching personnel, preschool teachers and aides, public health nursing staff, social workers and paraprofessional groups;

Develops new materials for use in dental health programs, disseminates new dental health programs, and new dental health information and literature to the public;

Creates, uses and coordinates audiovisual materials for instructional purposes in dental health presentations to school and community groups;

Places and exposes x-ray films of oral cavity;

Aids in the evaluation of dental health education materials (e.g.; films, filmstrips, slides, posters, pamphlets, etc.) and programs;

Organizes and works with community groups and directs educational efforts to influence public attitudes and behavior with regard to dental health needs;

Aids in the planning and direction of workshops and discussion groups to promote dental public health;

Takes impressions for study casts;

Participates in inter-agency case reviews, evaluations and conferences to discuss dental aspects of health and medical care programs;

Participates in dental public health surveys and research studies within the community;

Performs oral examinations, evaluates oral condition, refers patients for corrective dental care, places fissure sealants and follows up on cases referred for further dental treatment;

Counsels children and parents regarding necessity of regular preventive care, sources of care within the community, and areas where financial assistance for dental care may be obtained;

Works with various public and private agencies within the community

while implementing dental health programs and projects;  
Functions as a community dental health resource and dental health consultant on assignments;  
Provides dental prophylaxis and other oral hygiene measures, including instruction in home care of the mouth and placing pit and fissure sealants;  
Applies preventive measures such as topical application of fluorides and pit and fissure sealants;  
Advises the public of the importance of diet and nutrition on their dental health status;  
Prepares correspondence and various dental reports related to the work.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Good knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of dental hygiene and oral prophylactics;  
Good knowledge of the basic principles, practices and techniques of dental health education;  
Skill in educational techniques and methods of communication;  
Ability to establish and maintain effective inter-personal relationships;  
Ability to prepare dental health education materials;  
Ability to use audiovisual equipment;  
Ability to prepare and maintain dental records, charts and reports;  
Sound professional judgment, good hand and eye coordination;  
Physical condition commensurate with demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Possession of a current valid license to practice dental hygiene in New York State.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:** Possession of an appropriate level New York State Motor Vehicle Operator's License.