



Tooth Taxi Information for School Staff

The Dental Foundation of Oregon (DFO) whose mission is “*Improving oral health for Oregon's children*” launched their mobile dental clinic at schools in the Willamette Valley in September 2008. The launch of the mobile dental van, affectionately known as the “Tooth Taxi” is made possible by sponsorship from OEA Choice Trust and ODS.

The Dental Foundation of Oregon’s Tooth Taxi is a fully equipped dental office on wheels. By participating in this **FREE** program, children can receive quality oral health services, including cleanings, preventive services, fillings, extractions and oral health education. The Oregon Department of Human Services 2007 Smile Survey reports 35% of Oregon children with untreated tooth decay, a higher percentage than WA, ID, AK or CA. According to the study, dental decay in the form of cavities is 100% treatable. The DFO wants to make that statistic a reality, giving every child a chance to smile with pride.

The Tooth Taxi visits schools that have a high percentage of students that qualify for the free & reduced lunch program. The Tooth Taxi gives treatment priority to children that have no dental insurance, children that have never been to the dentist, or children with an emergent need.

The van will park at a school location for one week, screen children on Monday and then book appointments for their treatment Tuesday – Friday. Eligible students will need to complete paperwork before any screening or treatment can begin.

The Tooth Taxi is a 38-foot van that has two fully equipped, state-of-the art dental operatory units and is equipped with handicap access. The Tooth Taxi is staffed with a licensed Oregon dentist and a dental assistant.

For further information on the Tooth Taxi mobile dental clinic at your school please contact the program manager Carrie Peterson carrie.peterson@modahealth.com 503-329-8877 or Lisa Mahoney, OEA Choice Trust lisa@oeachoice.com, 503-961-3109.