

FAQs for Prospective Screeners for the 2022-23 Smile Survey

1. Q: *What is the Smile Survey?*

A: The [Smile Survey](#) is conducted via a collaboration from Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and [Arcora Foundation](#). The Smile Survey gives us up-to-date information on the oral health status of Washington's children. This in-person survey takes place in randomly selected elementary schools across the state and historically has occurred every 5 or so years. It is used for tracking trends, advocacy work, and shaping oral health policies in addition to guiding public health interventions, where the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Program is an example of this. The Arcora Foundation has more information about the Smile Survey [here](#).

In addition, DOH works closely with Local Health Departments and with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in Washington State. OSPI has given their full support of conducting the Smile Survey this school year.

The Smile Survey is a Basic Screening Survey (BSS) that looks at trends over time on the prevalence of decay and sealants. This is the 6th Smile Survey in Washington State.

A State-Level Survey will be conducted this year that includes about 87 schools. In addition, 21 out of 39 Counties have requested a County-Level Survey. The size of the county will determine how many schools will need to be screened. Some counties are small enough that every elementary school will be asked to participate.

In past years, the Smile Survey was simultaneously conducted in both elementary schools and low-income preschools, such as Head Start and ECEAP programs, but this year the survey is focused on 2nd and 3rd graders. Kindergartens and low-income preschools will be surveyed at a later date.

2. Q: *Who is eligible to be a Smile Survey Screener?*

A: Any currently licensed Registered Dental Hygienist or Dentist in the State of Washington can sign up to be a Screener. Also, any new grads who have received their license are welcome to participate!

3. Q: *How will Screeners be trained?*

A: To be able to screen any children included in the survey, the Screener must attend an in-person Calibration Training. Calibration Trainings are hosted by Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Arcora Foundation. Screeners will receive training by Kathy Phipps RDH, PhD in Epidemiology.

Dr. Kathy Phipps is an oral epidemiologist with considerable experience in caries research and the development and implementation of oral health surveillance systems. Currently, she is the Data and Surveillance Coordinator for the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, an epidemiology consultant for the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the primary consultant for the Indian Health Service's oral health surveys of the American Indian and Alaska Native population.

Dr. Phipps provides oral epidemiology consulting services to Arcora Foundation and the Washington State Department of Health and has helped to shape the design of Washington State's Smile Survey.

The afternoon portion of the training will be held in-person at an elementary school. The initial training for the 2022-23 Smile Survey was held in Kent, WA on October 28, 2022. There will be an additional Calibration Training scheduled after the first of the year in Pierce County.

4. Q: What are the additional details about the required Calibration Training?

A: It is an *all-day training* from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and full-day attendance is required to be considered calibrated and eligible to be a Screener. There will be 4 Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits provided for attending the full-day training. In addition, all Screeners will be paid \$360 plus allowable travel expenses for attending the training (Air, ground, or POV-personally owned vehicle mileage at current government rate). [Travel](#) and [hotel accommodations](#) expenses will be reimbursed up to the current GSA Per Diem Rates in Washington State. Please save your receipts to submit with your reimbursement requests.

5. Q: Will Screeners be compensated for their time to collect this data?

A: Yes, Screeners will be acting as an independent contractor for the Arcora Foundation. Arcora will have Screeners complete and sign an IRS Form W-9 and an ACH form to be set up to receive future compensation. All future invoices will be processed through Arcora Foundation. Compensation will be at a flat rate of \$435 per elementary school completed. This amount includes regular travel time and mileage to and from the survey location (up to 100 miles each way).

Arcora Foundation will reimburse additional pre-approved travel expenses per the Arcora Foundation travel policy included in the contract. All additional expenses must be approved by Arcora Foundation prior to incurring the expense.

6. Q: How many schools is a Screener required to screen?

A: A Screener can see as many schools as they would like to. It just depends on the Screeners availability and the counties they are willing to travel to. Some areas have more schools to screen, and some areas have less. The number of schools in a county will be higher when a County has chosen to participate in a County-Level sample.

7. Q: Is there a requirement of certain days or hours that Screeners must be available to participate?

A: No, Screeners will essentially set their own schedule and commit to schools that they can screen on the days and times they have available.

8. Q: Are there any vaccine requirements to be a Screener?

A: Screeners must be vaccinated with the initial series of the Covid-19 vaccine in accordance with the Governor’s proclamation that all contractors and *subcontractors* with a WA state agency must be able to show proof of vaccination. Currently, there is not a process to allow for vaccine exemptions.

“To reduce the spread of COVID-19, Washington state Governor Jay Inslee, pursuant to emergency powers authorized in [RCW 43.06.220](#), issued [Proclamation 21-14 – COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement](#) (dated August 9, 2021), as amended by [Proclamation 21-14.2 – COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement](#) (dated September 27, 2021) and as may be amended thereafter. The Proclamation requires contractors/vendors who have goods, services, or public works contracts with a Washington state agency to ensure that their personnel (including subcontractors) who perform contract activities on-site comply with the COVID-19 vaccination requirements, unless exempted as prescribed by the Proclamation.”

For the Smile Survey, Screeners would be considered a subcontractor of DOH and Arcora Foundation. In addition, Screeners will be working in a public-school setting which also falls under this proclamation.

9. Q: What does a typical screening look like?

A: It is a quick visual screening with recording of obvious findings. Screeners use only a disposable mirror and light; a penlight and blacklight. No dental loupes will be allowed however, portable dental lights are allowed. As needed, a Screener may need to remove excessive debris with a toothbrush. The screening itself typically takes only 1-2 minutes total.

10. Q: What is supplied for Screeners?

A: All materials and supplies will be provided for Screeners, including PPE (gloves, masks and face shield), and supplies such as mirrors, penlights, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, office supplies, and a rolling cart. An Oral Health Kit with a toothbrush is given to every student in the participating classrooms.

11. Q: What PPE will Screeners wear?

A: Mask, gloves, eye protection (safety glasses or face shield) and scrubs with long sleeves are all recommended.

12. Q: I'm ready to commit! What are the next steps?

A: Great! We would be happy to have you on board the Smile Survey Team! First, Heather Knaplund from Arcora Foundation will email you a Screener contract for review via DocuSign. If you have any questions on the contract itself, please contact Heather at hknaplund@arcorafoundation.org Next, please register for the Calibration Training via the link provided by Arcora Foundation.