

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This year your child's kindergarten class will take part in a hearing and dental screening program at their school. This will be done by Vancouver Coastal Health public health staff as part of a province-wide screening program. We want to help identify children who may be experiencing problems, which can interfere with their health and learning.

Screening will be done on Monday, November 7, 2022

Screeners will:



Use headphones to see how your child hears sounds of different pitches in each ear.



Check all children's teeth, whether they have or have not seen a dentist before. They will complete a quick visual check using a tongue depressor and flashlight. This dental screening does not replace seeing a dentist.

If we find any concerns with your child's hearing or dental health, we will let you know. A letter will be sent home with information about your child's screening and if there is a need for further testing or follow up.

To support your child's learning, we will also notify the principal of your child's school of the screening results. The new Child Health Screening Regulation allows us to share screening results with the principal for the purpose of follow-up and care of your child. However, parents have the right to opt out of screening and/or the sharing of the results.

If you do not wish your child to be screened, *OR*, if you do not want the school principal to be informed of the screening results please contact us at the phone numbers below prior to the screening date. If you do not contact us, we will screen your child. If you choose not to participate in the screening and/or in the sharing of results, this will not affect your child receiving other services or in the quality of care provided.

Information about your child's screening will be recorded in your child's health record at the Health Unit. The information collected is to support your child's referral and follow up and to evaluate the screening programs by VCH and at the provincial level. We make sure that this information stays private. We collect, use and share this information only as allowed by law: The British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

For more information about hearing or dental health visit: [//www.vch.ca/public-health/children-youth-schools](http://www.vch.ca/public-health/children-youth-schools)

Sincerely,

Audiology & Dental Screening Program:
604 233 3150 – Ext 4574