

Fremont, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Argus
(Cir. D. 32,400)
(Cir. S. 33,300)

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Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Screening

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in the Tri-City area did not receive a dental screening, according to the Alameda County Office of Education.

Nationwide, students miss more than 51 million hours of school each year because of dental-related illnesses, and children are five times more likely to be afflicted with tooth decay than with asthma, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health experts also report that toothaches can make it difficult for children to focus

in school, and the embarrassment of yellowed or rotting teeth can lower self-confidence.

In severe cases, lack of dental care can be fatal.

Two years ago, The Washington Post reported that a 12-year-old Maryland boy died when bacteria from an untreated tooth abscess spread to his brain.

An \$80 tooth extraction might have prevented the death, the report said.

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353 Sign up by Friday for dental screening

By Linh Tat
STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — The Southern Alameda County Dental Society will offer free dental screenings to low-income children ages 4 to 14 Saturday as part of the national "Give Kids a Smile" campaign, which coincides with National Children's Dental Health Month.

The screenings will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in an office building at 2241 Parkside Drive, Fremont.

To enroll, parents must contact the county dental society by 3 p.m. Friday and provide their name, and the child's name and age.

More than 200 children already have signed up. Clients will be served on a first-come, first-served basis, organizers said.

California law requires that students who are enrolled in public school for the first time must receive an oral health assessment by a licensed dental health professional. But during the 2006-07 academic year, the first year the law went into effect, more than 2,000 kindergartners and first-graders

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