

## DENTAL HYGIENIST

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** These duties involve responsibility for the dental examination and oral prophylaxis of school children. A Dental Hygienist must have a good knowledge of the principles and practices of oral hygiene and a working knowledge of oral anatomy. The work is performed under the general supervision of a Dentist who is available for consultation on unusual problems. Incumbents exercise a considerable degree of independence in planning and carrying out their assigned duties. A Dental Hygienist also does related work as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Examines the teeth of school children in order to detect carious lesions, periodontal pockets and other abnormal conditions;
- Performs oral prophylaxis such as cleaning, polishing and scaling;
- Schedules appointments with school dentist for those in need of immediate dental care;
- Administers fluoride treatments;
- Keeps dental charts and records;
- Orders and maintains supplies necessary for dental health program;
- Instructs individual children as to the proper care of their teeth;
- Assists classroom teachers with the presentation of dental health programs;
- Reviews and selects educational and audio visual material related to dental health;
- Notifies parents of dental problems such as caries, abnormalities, malocclusion and poor oral hygiene habits;
- Discusses dental problems with classroom teachers and is available for parent conferences;
- Acts as a liaison with community groups, officials and the general public for promotion of preventive dental health.

### **FULL PERFORMANCE, KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Working knowledge of the principles and practices of oral hygiene and skill in the techniques of oral prophylaxes; ability to make and keep dental charts and records; ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions; ability to work effectively with children; patience; good judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Possession of a license to practice as a Dental Hygienist in New York State.