

For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Revolutionizing Dental Health in New Hampshire Schools: CariedAway™ NH Concord Secures \$1M for Cavity Prevention and Treatment Program

In a groundbreaking initiative, CariedAway™ NH Concord is transforming dental health in New Hampshire schools with a \$1 million, three-year award from Northeast Delta Dental. This innovative cavity prevention and treatment program provides care in elementary and middle schools in Concord, Pittsfield, and the Merrimack Valley school districts.



Northeast Delta Dental visits Boscawen Elementary School to present award to CariedAway™ team. From left to right: Jennifer McGrath, Senior Manager, Corporate Giving, Northeast Delta Dental | Mary Davis, RDH, CPHDH, Clinical Director, CariedAway™ | Richard Niederman, DMD, Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion, NYU, College of Dentistry, Founder and Director, CariedAway™ | Jeff Drouin, Principal, Boscawen Elementary School | Tom Raffio, President and CEO, Northeast Delta Dental | Erin Holt, Director, Marketing and Communications, Northeast Delta Dental

Imagine a world where up to 80% of cavities are prevented and existing ones reduced by an astounding 50%. That's the future CariedAway NH Concord is bringing to New Hampshire schools.

CariedAway NH Concord, an innovative cavity prevention and treatment program has received a \$1 million, three-year award from Northeast Delta Dental to launch in elementary and middle schools in Concord, Pittsfield, and the Merrimack Valley school districts.

The program will use point-of-care technology created by Massachusetts-based New England Survey Systems (NESS) to design precision treatment plans. "We are proud to support a program that has been shown to effectively arrest and prevent tooth decay in children," explained Tom Raffio, President & CEO, Northeast Delta Dental. "CariedAway not only improves the oral health of children in New Hampshire but also encourages them to develop good oral health routines early in life."

In New Hampshire, one in 20 children entering kindergarten has untreated cavities. This grows to one in four students leaving high school with untreated decay. In both children and adults, untreated dental cavities are more common than diabetes and heart disease combined, according to a 2022 [World Health Organization](#) report. Without timely care these preventable dental infections result in pain, school absence, lower academic performance, and both tooth and health loss.

Integrating Experience

Implementing CariedAway measurably improves a child's oral health, quality of life, and school attendance. "With New Hampshire's pent-up demand for dental care overwhelming dentists, CariedAway sets children on a healthy path for their future", said Richard Niederman, DMD, professor of epidemiology & health promotion at NYU Dentistry, also a CariedAway founder.

How CariedAway School-based Dental Care Works

CariedAway is an evidence-based cavity prevention and treatment program. CariedAway brings care to kids in schools. There are no shots, no drilling, and no pain.

At twice-yearly visits, students whose parents have provided written consent to participate in the program receive an oral health screening, cavity prevention and treatment, and a toothbrush and toothpaste—all from a portable dental chair in their school's library, auditorium, or a similar space. The cavity prevention measures include decay-stopping silver diamine fluoride, traditional dental sealants, and cavity sealants. Children are also referred to local dentists to establish a permanent dental home or for more complex care.

"Our prevention program amplifies and compliments treatment that children can only receive in a dental office," said Denise Guerrero, operations, and compliance manager for CariedAway NH Concord at NYU Dentistry and a CariedAway founder.

CariedAway school-based care does not interfere with a child's office-based examination, cleaning, x-rays, or how insurance is charged for these services. "School-based cavity prevention and treatment programs are an excellent adjunct to traditional dental care in the office and are a proven method for reducing dental disease which has lasting impacts on overall health and wellness," shared Kelly Perry, DMD, Dental Director at Mid-State Health Center, chair of the New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition and supervising dentist for CariedAway.



*Boscawen Elementary School students receiving cavity prevention and treatment.
From left to right Mary Davis, RDH, CPHDH, Clinical Director, CariedAway™ |
Cody LeClair and Cali LeClair, students at Boscawen Elementary School | Crystal
Nuzzo, Dental Assistant, CariedAway™*

Award Winning Community Partnership

To improve and ensure that all children receive the care they need and deserve, CariedAway partners with school superintendents, principals, nurses, parents, and local dentists. In 2022, the American Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors named CariedAway's New Hampshire program as a national model for school-based cavity prevention.

"As one who believes in the tremendous benefits associated with the Whole Child Approach, oral health plays a gigantic role in a student's well-being" said Jeff Drouin, Principal, Boscawen Elementary School.

The funding from Northeast Delta Dental will enable CariedAway to operate in elementary and middle schools in Concord, Merrimack Valley, and Pittsfield for three years. The funding will also support the integration of a secure electronic health record developed by NESS in collaboration with NYU Dentistry and CariedAway. The iPad-based technology was designed specifically for school-based cavity prevention programs. "The technology integrates each child's history and clinical findings to dynamically create a precision prevention and treatment plan for each tooth surface, and provides longitudinal outcome assessment" said John Roberge, president of NESS.

"We are grateful to Northeast Delta Dental for supporting our integrative technology system to quantitatively improve children's oral health," said Mary Davis, CPHDH, the CariedAway clinical program director, and a CariedAway founder. Ms. Davis, who initiated school-based programs with Lamprey Health Care, Alice Peck Day Hospital, the Salem, Concord, Merrimack Valley and Pittsfield school systems and a NH statewide school-based cavity prevention and treatment program, brings deep experience to this initiative.

CariedAway NH Concord will begin in schools this month and will be offered to 4,200 students across 13 elementary and middle schools. Parents and guardians at participating schools will begin receiving information about the program in January and can sign their children up to participate using the paper or electronic forms provided by schools.

To Have Your child Participate in the Program

Schools participating in this program have begun distributing paper and electronic program information and consent forms. Parents/Guardians can sign up their children for the program by either filling out the paper consent provided by the school or visit our website to follow sign-up instructions.

About CariedAway

CariedAway™ provides safe, effective, equitable, accessible and high-quality, high-value preventive care for all children enrolled. CariedAway was initially implemented in select New Hampshire elementary schools beginning in 2017, supported by a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. The program was created on the long-standing relationship between the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the Concord Dental Sealant Coalition, Sullivan County Dental Initiative, and NYU Dentistry. Visit [cariedaway.com](https://www.cariedaway.com) for more information.

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www.CariedAway.com