

Through technical-cooperation funds from the Pan American Health Organization, HHS and PAHO, are offering the Workshop on Caries Prevention for Communities in the Region of Americas (*Taller de prevención de caries para comunidades en la Región de las Américas*). The course will offer an adaptation of techniques and curricula developed by the HHS Indian Health Service (IHS) on oral health promotion/disease prevention methodologies. A key aspect of the training will be the provision of dental sealants and varnishes. A key aspect of the training will be discussion about community-based oral health programs and upon completion of the course, those trained will be able to apply skills learned at the RHCTC in their own communities.

The Workshop on Caries Prevention will implement the Train the Trainer educational methodology whereby individuals transfer knowledge and skills to others. This model is an intensive three-day, skill development, interactive process that uses various educational techniques which will ultimately empower dentists and dental auxiliaries who have caries prevention expertise to plan sustainable strategies to improve oral health in their countries. At the conclusion of the Train the Trainer, workshop attendees will have a written plan customized to meet their community's unique needs and they will receive tools to recruit community members. Staff from the Gorgas Institute will offer support throughout the training, as well as when the attendees return to their communities to execute their strategies.

The development of sustainable systems to prevent dental caries as learned in this workshop will improve oral health in all age groups. It will also provide dentists and dental auxiliaries with the knowledge to create community based programs and workshops that will positively impact the overall health of communities in the Region of the Americas. Workshop attendees will have the opportunity to assess the training effectiveness of Train the Trainer in order to improve the educational methodology for future workshops, which will in turn provide dentists and dental auxiliaries with the knowledge to guide in the creation of more secure, sustainable systems to prevent caries.

The materials for this workshop were developed by Bonnie Bruerd, DrPH and Mary Beth Kinney, EdD, MPH in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Division of Oral Health, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Gorgas Institute. We would like to thank all of the above organizations and individuals for their hard work. A special acknowledgement of appreciation goes to Joanna M. Douglass, BDS, DDS for permission to use Fluoride Varnish Application video, and to First5 Oral health for permission to use photographs.

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