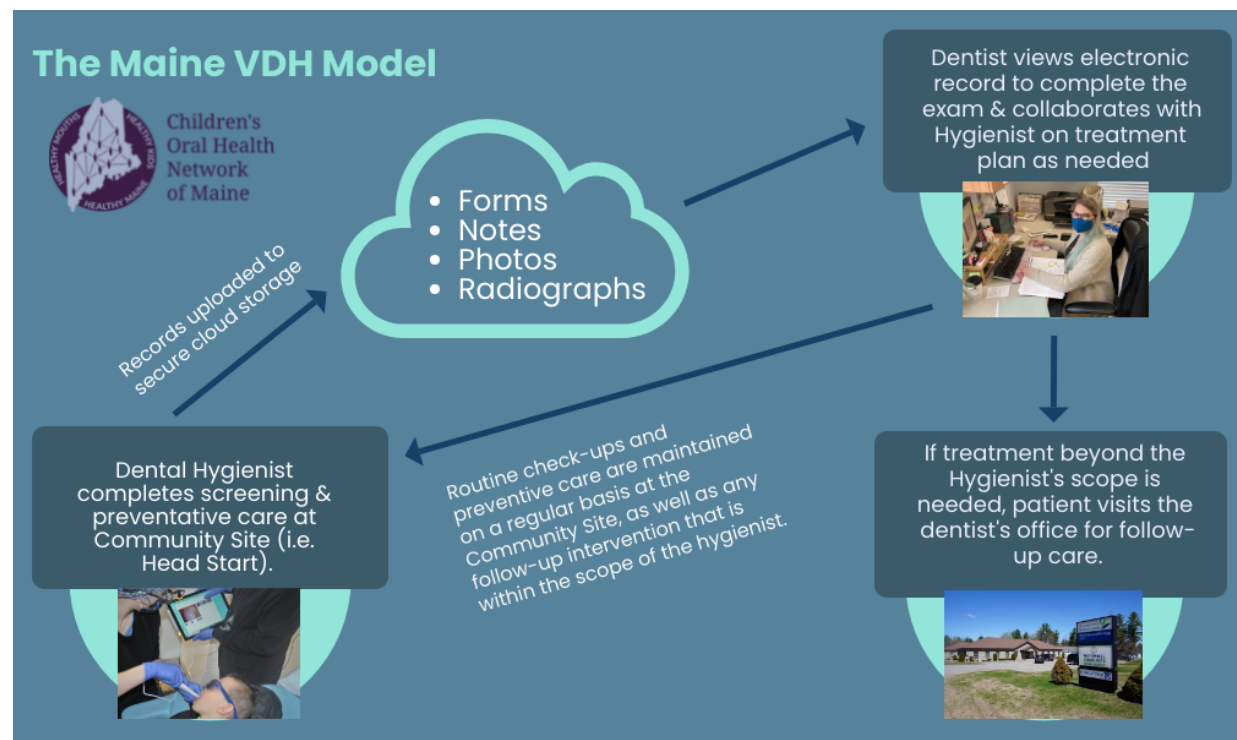


Bringing the Virtual Dental Home model to Maine: an innovative way to reach more kids!



What is the VDH model?

VDH is a community-based oral health care delivery system in which patients receive their preventive care and early intervention in a community setting (i.e. childcare, school, primary care) and are established as patients with a dental practice via a remote exam and treatment planning process. Licensed public health and independent practice dental hygienists deliver the community-based services using telehealth technology to share photos, images, and assessment results with dentists at an office location. The collaborating dentist will complete the exam remotely and create a treatment plan for follow-up care as needed.

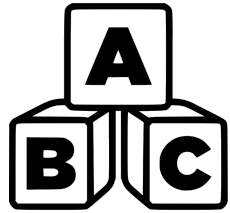
What does VDH accomplish?



The VDH model ensures that patients receive consistent and comprehensive coordinated care. It also maximizes everyone's time and resources, particularly in that it reserves in-office care with a dentist for treatments that require a dentist's direct expertise and tools. For pediatric patients, this model also eliminates the key logistical barriers that many parents face in trying to get their children to a dental office for routine preventive care.

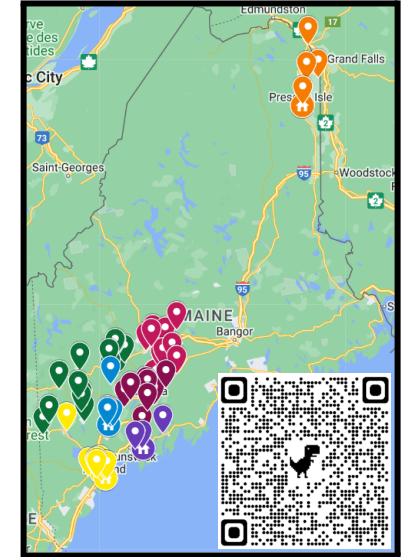
The VDH approach is based on a successful model developed by Dr. Paul Glassman of the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry and replicated in multiple states. Based on experience in other states, we predict that **over 75% of the care that children need can be delivered on-site in their school or childcare setting**, keeping the vast majority of children healthy without ever having to visit the dentist office.

What is the status of VDH in Maine right now?



Head Start pilots: In the 2022-23 school year, 65 Head Start locations in 9 counties will provide oral health services in the virtual dental home model of care. Each region has formed a Local Implementation Team to plan and coordinate the various components of this year's pilot. COHN has been able to provide support to these teams thanks to funders including the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, Procter & Gamble / The P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Sadie and Harry Davis Foundation, and the Maine Health Access Foundation. A replication project grant from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs has enabled all

teams to work closely with VDH model founder Dr. Paul Glassman. Substantial federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has been secured to support and expand this pilot throughout the next year, encompassing both the Head Start implementation, adaptation of the model to a primary care setting, and a comprehensive evaluation to assess the impact and long-term sustainability of the VDH model. (HRSA funds will also support the other aspects of the VDH initiative as detailed on the next page.)



County/ies	Supervising dentist / dental office	Community-based hygiene team	Head Start agency
Androscoggin	Mainely Teeth w/ contracted local dentist	Mainely Teeth	Promise Early Education
Aroostook	St. Apollonia Dental Clinic, Presque Isle	Aroostook Community Action Program, dental hygiene staff	Aroostook Community Action Program
Cumberland	Mainely Teeth w/ contracted local dentist	Mainely Teeth	Opportunity Alliance
Franklin / Oxford	Community Dental, Farmington	Mainely Teeth	Community Concepts, Inc.
Kennebec / Somerset	Waterville Community Dental Center, Oakland	Mainely Teeth	Kennebec Valley Community Action & Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation
Lincoln / Sagadahoc	Jessie Albert Dental and Orthodontic Center, Bath	Jessie Albert Dental and Orthodontic Center	Midcoast Maine Community Action



School integration: Expanding upwards from the Head Start pilot, COHN partners are exploring what it would look like to integrate VDH into school-based health centers to serve grades K through 12. Many schools already host preventive clinics via the Maine School Oral Health Program or a contracted dental hygienist. VDH would strengthen these existing services by establishing students as patients of record with comprehensive dental care under the VDH umbrella.



Primary care integration: COHN's Health Integration Action Team is collaborating with Medical Care Development in active planning for the first VDH primary care integration pilot in 2023. Lincoln Medical Partners in Damariscotta is working to integrate oral health care into this primary care setting in partnership with Jessie Albert Dental and Orthodontic Center in Bath. A dental hygiene team will deliver routine, preventive care and minimally invasive caries arrest treatments on-site at the medical office with Jessie Albert's dentists providing remote dental supervision for the exam process and treatment planning.



Workforce development: In order to graduate clinicians with an existing awareness of community-engaged models of care, COHN is collaborating with the University of New England College of Dental Medicine (UNE) and the University of Maine (UMA) dental hygiene and dental assistant programs to incorporate the VDH model into training for future dental workforce. This curriculum integration will further support expansion of and enhance the long-term sustainability of the VDH model.

Questions about VDH in Maine?

[Click here](#) or scan the QR at right to signup for COHN e-newsletters to get VDH and other oral health updates. This is the source for future VDH workshops and other opportunities and resources.



Children's
Oral Health
Network
of Maine

Contact the Network's VDH Program Coordinator,
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