

# Carol L. Ash, RDH



**Carol L. Ash, RDH**, received her Certificate in Dental Hygiene from Ohio State University. She has worked as a public health hygienist for the last twenty years with the children of Solana County. While developing the Dental Disease Prevention Program, a school based education and fluoride rinse program, Carol has found herself not only in the classroom educating over 5,000 children a year but also developing policies and procedures to address the various challenges of the program. Recently, Carol has been instrumental in the implementation of a school based dental sealant program as well as the coordination of a Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program. Carol has been recognized for her efforts to improve the total health of the children in her community by both her local component and the California Dental Hygienists' Association.

**“One needs to educate the children...so that they in turn can educate their parents.”**

## **Education**

Certificate in Dental Hygiene, 3 year  
Ohio State University

## **Personal Awards and Recognitions**

Outstanding Member: Napa/Solano Dental Hygiene

## **Primary function in public health position**

For the past 20 years I have co-coordinated the Solano County's Dental Disease Prevention Program "Smile In Style". Activities include: planning, implementing and evaluating the program; educational visits to classes, including a tobacco use prevention program; dental screenings for students; and serving on the high school policy council.

## **What experiences prepared you for your work in public health?**

I was a parent volunteer in the classroom for ten years, then a substitute teacher for six years (K-12)...so going into the classroom to educate the students about oral health wasn't a problem. I also volunteered at a local non-profit dental clinic occasionally.

## **What is the most enjoyable aspect of dental public health?**

Being able to have a positive impact on the oral health of thousands of students, many of who have yet to go to a dentist, even by 6<sup>th</sup> grade!

## **Proudest public health accomplishment**

Getting the oral health message out to nearly 200,000 students, teachers, parents, the past 20 years. Providing sealants to nearly 500 students.

## **Public Health employer/branch/department and official job title**

Senior Health Education Specialist for the Solano County Health & Social Services Dept. serving as Co-Program coordinator of Smile In Style for Solano County.

## **Contact Information**

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