



## Lisa Enns, Richmond, British Columbia

Lisa is a go-getter. She, along with one other dental hygienist on our public health team, reach out to our most vulnerable population in Richmond to provide the services needed for their dental health, from coordinating free dental hygiene services for those unable to get coverage to regularly dropping in at the food bank to connect with their clients, and to providing services for infants and young children at community gatherings. Lisa also implemented our own surveillance for dental health in Richmond to give public health a better understanding of our population. Such a true public health practitioner.

Lisa is fearless in her drive to “Just do it.” If she sees a task as valuable for public health and well-being, she is keen to take it on. She plays a key role in organizing free dental care days for adults and children who could not afford dental care otherwise. She promotes the full use of the Healthy Kids coverage program to get children the care that they need. She goes beyond expectations by seeking funding to support emergency dental care for children when the cost is prohibitive for the family.

Lisa is a wonderful, committed, and dedicated dental hygienist who really goes above and beyond her role to help people in the community and especially children ages 6 months to 5 years. She works tirelessly to decrease the dental caries in our children’s population. She provides one-on-one dental care for those children ages 5 and under who do not have dental insurance. The 0 to 5 years population in our community has seen a decrease in dental caries due to her effective work. She also supports families who do not have dental insurance with information about supports available to them. Lisa is the “go-to person” for dental needs on our Early Years team. We appreciate her and her diligence in providing for and supporting our families. She is our hero!!

She is an excellent advocate for dental health in Richmond, BC. A great communicator who is compassionate, kind, and very knowledgeable, Lisa always has a smile and is always willing to help without hesitation. She works with families from diverse backgrounds and facing many socioeconomic challenges, and looks for new ways to help these families access care. She is a wonderful support to our public health nursing team; we are very grateful for Lisa’s support and enthusiasm!



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Lisa developed the Public Health Dental Program as there hadn't been a dental component to Richmond Public Health since the 1980s. With the goal of preventing early childhood tooth decay, the program consists of prevention clinics, community oral health promotion and outreach, and referral. I don't know anyone more passionate or dedicated. Her dedication has ensured that the families in Richmond are receiving good dental care through her in-house clinics and outreach programs. She is a valuable champion for families who can't afford high dental costs by ensuring they have access to resources and, when needed, helping them complete the application forms. Her fight for good dental health is admirable.

Lisa developed all processes and systems for the prevention clinic, which sees over 1,000 high risk children under the age of 6 each year. She has established many partnerships with many community agencies to promote the importance of children's oral health. Some highlights: oral health grab bags for children available at food banks, and dental screening and referrals to partners who work with priority populations such as refugees, new immigrants, and young moms. Lisa also coordinates approximately 200 free dental treatment sessions per year for children not able to access private dental offices, orients student nurses to public health dentistry, and welcomes student nurses into clinic. She helped develop evidence-based dental guidelines for public health and acute care.

Lisa has chaired the Regional Dental Practice Committee for 10+ years, facilitating work that promotes regionally consistent practice, and promotes dentistry within the health system. She has helped Richmond see a reduction in the rate of visible tooth decay in kindergarten-aged children, from 32% in 2006 to 19% in 2018.

I am a public health nurse and Lisa is an amazing colleague, keeping us up to date with evidence-based information and working tirelessly on kindergarten screening to help create accurate statistics on the dental health of this age group. These statistics provide us with an opportunity to develop potential strategies to see if we can improve the dental health of our region. She is always willing to go the extra mile to make a difference, whether it be the free dental health day, an evening screening session for a school where a need is identified, or a weekend community fair. Not only has she done countless one-on-one sessions with parents, teaching them the skills they need to promote oral health, but she has also helped many families to break down barriers and access dental care for their children.



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Lisa is a powerful advocate for dental health in Richmond. Her passion, critical thinking, and empathy for her work and for her community are unmatched. She works with a lot of young kiddos, some are not too keen about getting their teeth checked but no matter how much they protest, Lisa somehow manages to get them to comply. We have a high non-English speaking clientele in Richmond, but Lisa does not let that deter her from promoting good oral hygiene. She will do charades or ask another staff member to translate—whatever it takes to ensure the client goes away with a well-informed and positive oral hygiene experience. She is always very patient, kind, and considerate of her clients, their families, and other staff members.

Lisa has devoted her life and career to this program and works tirelessly to promote oral health for Richmond's entire population. She has ensured that the Richmond public can participate in the UBC Children's Free Dental Program every year. She has spearheaded a program to offer free dental work to older adults/seniors who are unable to afford it. She has established community partnerships which allow her to attend wellness groups, baby playgroups, and preschools to educate families about the importance of early dental health. This is all on top of seeing 30 to 40 clients and families per week in our office. I don't have enough words to explain how dedicated, devoted, and awesome she is. She has an incredible way with the young children and teaches families about dental health with confidence and knowledge while never speaking down to them. She is such a positive, energetic, and fun champion of dental health in our community!! I truly admire her.

Lisa is an exceptional public health dental hygienist who has pioneered and continues to pioneer the only children's dental public health program in Richmond. She developed and planned the program over a decade ago (everything from the assessment to evaluation phases of program implementation), and has established its reputation. She is a phenomenal advocate for children's and adult oral health both in the public sphere and within our organization. She volunteers her time with free dental days in Richmond, committed to facilitating oral care for adults who cannot afford dental care. She partners with UBC dental and dental hygiene students. She maintains an exceptional dental public health practice following evidence-based practice and other decision matrices in public health. She has set high standards for the program and disseminates her findings and progress well to her peers in public health, such as nurses, managers, supervisors, and allied health providers. She dedicates herself to going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure vulnerable families get equitable access to dental care.



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