

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2025

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

TAKING CARE OF YOUR TEETH



October is designated as National Dental Hygiene Month to raise awareness about the importance of good oral health and its role in overall health and well-being.

Taking care of your teeth and gums is essential for your overall well-being, not just your oral health. Good oral health helps adults eat, talk, smile, and feel confident. If you don't take care of your mouth, you can get cavities, gum disease, or even mouth cancer. These problems can be painful and may also lead to bigger health issues. That's why it's important to brush your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and floss once a day to clean between your teeth. You should also visit the dentist at least once a year, even if your mouth feels fine. Dentists can identify minor problems before they become major issues and provide thorough cleaning for your teeth.

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Dentists and dental hygienists play an important role in keeping people's mouths and bodies healthy. Dentists are doctors who take care of your teeth, gums, and mouth. They check for problems like cavities, gum disease, or signs of oral cancer. If they find something wrong, they can correct it before it worsens. Dentists also perform treatments such as filling cavities, repairing broken teeth, and removing teeth when necessary.

Dental hygienists work with dentists to help clean your teeth and teach you how to take care of them at home. They remove plaque and tartar, which are sticky layers of germs that can cause tooth decay and gum disease. Hygienists also show you the right way to brush and floss, and they might give you fluoride treatments to make your teeth stronger.

Both dentists and dental hygienists play a crucial role in helping to prevent problems before they arise. By visiting them regularly — at least once or twice a year — you can maintain your oral health, prevent pain, and even protect your overall well-being. A clean, healthy mouth makes it easier to eat, speak, and smile, and it also helps you stay well in other parts of your body.

There are additional steps you can take to protect your oral health. Drinking water with fluoride helps strengthen your teeth and prevent cavities. Eating healthy foods and avoiding sugary snacks and drinks is also important. Tobacco and too much alcohol can harm your mouth and even lead to cancer, so it's best to avoid them. If you play sports, wearing a mouthguard can protect your teeth from injury. People with chronic conditions like diabetes should take extra care of their mouths, since gum disease can make it harder to control blood sugar. Also, if your mouth feels dry a lot, try drinking more water or chewing sugar-free gum to help.

If you have questions or concerns about your dental or oral health, bring them up at your next dental appointment.

REFERENCE:

<https://www.cdc.gov/oral-health/about>

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