



Healthy Smile, Healthy You

CAN A HEALTHY MOUTH HELP CREATE A HEALTHY BODY?

Research suggests that positive oral health habits may impact many medical conditions.¹ So it's important to brush and floss every day and to visit the dentist regularly. Delta Dental of Virginia wants you to be your healthiest self, so we created Healthy Smile, Healthy You® to give enrolled members additional dental benefits when they have one of the following health conditions:

DIABETES



Gum disease is more common and may be more severe in individuals with diabetes. For those with both diabetes and gum disease, managing blood sugar levels can be more challenging. This is because infections associated with gum disease may cause blood sugar levels to rise.²

PREGNANCY*



Pregnant women with gum disease may be more likely to have a baby born prematurely or underweight than pregnant women without gum disease.³ Morning sickness may also cause tooth erosion due to increased acid from vomiting. Research also shows that women with high levels of tooth decay-causing bacteria may pass that onto their newborns, increasing their babies' risk for early childhood cavities.⁴

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Healthy Smile, Healthy You (continued)



HIGH-RISK CARDIAC CONDITIONS



Cardiovascular disease impacts many Americans. People with gum disease may also have a higher risk for heart disease.

Gum disease may make it more difficult to manage existing heart conditions.⁵

CANCER TREATMENT*



Radiation and chemotherapy directly affect salivary glands and oral tissues and may increase the risk of oral pain, infections and cavities.⁶ Treatment side effects may be reduced with diligent oral care and the participation of a dental team during cancer treatment.

WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM*



Fighting off germs is crucial to reducing infections and staying healthy. So, it's important to maintain good oral health habits if you have a weakened immune system. Brushing and flossing may help reduce the risk of expensive dental treatments while helping reduce infection risks.⁷

KIDNEY DISEASE*



If you have kidney disease, you may need to take extra care of your teeth and gums.

That's because you may be at risk for certain mouth problems, such as dry mouth. For those who have had a kidney transplant and need to take anti-rejection medicine that suppresses your immune system, you may have additional side effects that appear in the mouth, such as sores in the lining of the mouth, dry mouth and enlarged gums.⁸

If you have one of the medical conditions listed, Healthy Smile, Healthy You® allows for an additional cleaning and exam beyond your plan limit, per benefit period.[†] Healthy Smile, Healthy You is included in your dental plan. For questions about the program, call benefit services at 800.237.6060.

Enroll in Healthy Smile, Healthy You by logging in at DeltaDentalVA.com/members. After logging in, click “Healthy Smile, Healthy You” at the top of the page. Scroll down and click the plus sign to enroll. Once you submit the form to Delta Dental online, you can schedule an appointment with your dentist immediately. You may also download the “Healthy Smile, Healthy You Enrollment” form under the “Forms and Resources” tab.

¹U.S. Surgeon General Report on Oral Health 2000 – Chapter 3 – Diseases and Disorders. ²“Oral health is about more than your mouth,” www.deltadental.com/us/en/protect-my-smile/overall-health/oral-health-is-about-more-than-your-mouth.html, accessed 2023. ³“Pregnancy and oral health,” DDPA, www.deltadental.com/us/en/protect-my-smile/life-stages/pregnancy/pregnancy-oral-health.html, accessed 2023. ⁴American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), “Oral Health Care During Pregnancy and Through the Lifespan” Number 569, August 2013, (updated 2022). ⁵“Gum Disease and Other Systemic Diseases,” www.perio.org/consumer/heart_disease, accessed 2023. ⁶“What is dry mouth,” Delta Dental Plans Association, www.deltadental.com/us/en/protect-my-smile/oral-health-conditions/dry-mouth.html, accessed 2023. ⁷“Dental advice if you have kidney disease,” www.deltadental.com/us/en/protect-my-smile/overall-health/dental-advice-kidney-disease.html. ⁸“Oral yeast infections (candidiasis),” www.deltadental.com/us/en/protect-my-smile/oral-health-conditions/oral-yeast-infection-candidiasis.html.

*You may be eligible for fluoride and sealants beyond the age limitations of the group contract. †You may be eligible for an additional periodontal maintenance procedure if you have a history of periodontal treatment, such as surgery.