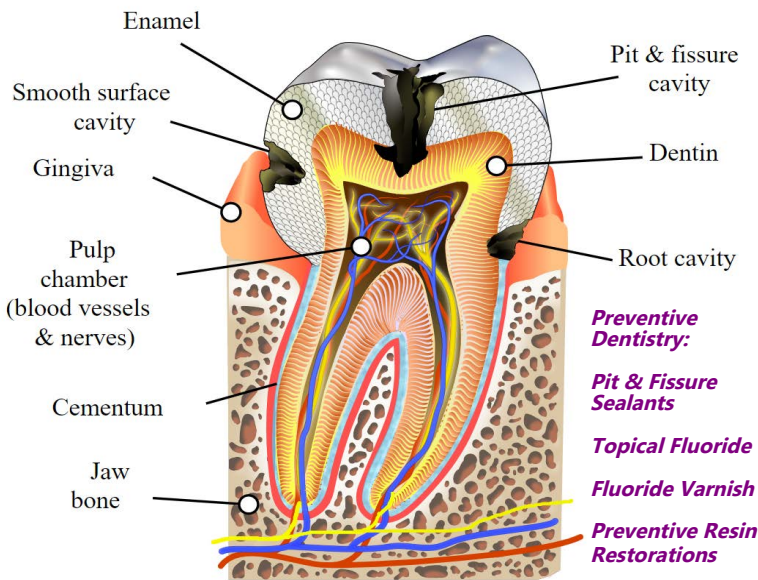


The temporary disruption to your dental care due to the office closures and government mandates brought on by the pandemic will be over soon. You have been very patient. Thank you for your help in preventing the spread of this deadly disease.

Caries Risk Assessment performed by your dentist Prevents Cavities

At Dental Health Services, our mission is to assist you in receiving timely and quality preventive dental care for you and your family members. We encourage you to participate in our caries risk assessment program, designed to help your Plan Participating Dentist identify caries risk and allow them to manage and help prevent these conditions. Dental caries (tooth decay or cavities) is the most common chronic childhood disease--with an estimated 90% of adults worldwide having experienced some level of tooth decay.

Your dentist's role is to encourage you, his patients, to incorporate certain actions into your lifestyle to prevent tooth decay. These include good oral hygiene, routine professional check-ups and cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatments when necessary to help protect teeth in patients **under 18** years of age.



Caries Risk: The probability that an individual will develop a certain number of carious lesions (decay) of the teeth, if the risk factors remain the same in a given period of time.

Caries Assessment: Identifies individuals at high risk for developing future tooth decay.

Your Dental Health Services coverage has added Plan Benefits to better help you and your dentist. The following benefit codes are used by your dentist to record and report their caries assessment findings and evaluate your risk.

- D0601 caries risk assessment with a finding of low risk.
- D0602 caries risk assessment with a finding of moderate risk.
- D0603 caries risk assessment with a finding of high risk.

Information from these assessments will help your dentist to devise treatment plans that are customized to your individual risk level (fluoride treatments, sealants, preventive resin restorations, etc.) It allows you to be an active participant in your own (and your children's) preventive care, by following home-care instructions provided by your dentist. It will help us provide educational materials and guides to help you and your family get on the path of optimal oral health.

Many dietary and nutritional considerations, such as reducing sugar intake, will also help reduce harmful bacterial effects on the teeth and gums.

The association between poor oral health (including higher risk for tooth decay) and diabetes is well documented. For this reason, preventive oral health care is extremely important for people with diabetes. Gumline caries assessment and preventive treatments, can go a long way in ensuring better and healthier outcomes in your oral health.