



Member Bulletin

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April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month

What you need to know

Oral and throat cancer is common in California. If not diagnosed and treated in its early stages, the cancer can spread and can lead to:

- Chronic pain
- Loss of function (chewing, speaking, eating)
- Facial and oral disfigurement
- Death

Who gets oral cancer?

Anyone can get oral cancer. Heavy drinkers and people who smoke or use other tobacco products are at higher risk. It is most common in people over age 50, but younger, healthy, nonsmoking individuals who contract human papillomavirus (HPV) are at risk of developing [oral cancers](#).

Early detection can save your smile

The good news? The earlier oral cancer is detected and treated, the better the survival rate. This is just one of the many reasons you should visit your dentist regularly. If you are under age 21, dental checkups are covered every 6 months. If you are 21 years of age or older, dental checkups are covered every 12 months.

Warning signs

Check yourself for early warning signs. Contact your dentist right away if you notice any of the following:

- Sores that last longer than two weeks
- Swelling, growths or lumps anywhere in or near your mouth or neck
- White or red patches in your mouth or on your lips
- Repeated bleeding from the mouth or throat
- Difficulty swallowing or persistent hoarseness

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Learn more about free or low-cost dental services to help keep you and your smile healthy at:

SmileCalifornia.org

FIND A DENTIST

Click for a complete list of Medi-Cal dental providers in your area.





Go Green for Your Dental Routine

Make Earth Day every day! Add these tips to your dental routine so you can enjoy a healthier mouth and planet.

Turn off the tap

There's no need to run the tap while you brush. Turn off the water as soon as you wet your toothbrush.

Recycle your toothbrush

After three or four months, it's time to toss your toothbrush. But don't take that literally — consider giving your toothbrush a new function, like a cleaning tool or paintbrush.

Say no to microbeads

Some toothpaste brands add colorful pieces of plastic called "microbeads" to their products to make them sparkle. These little pieces of plastic can get stuck between your teeth and gums. Once they are washed down the drain, microbeads pile up in rivers and lakes. If mistaken for food by fish, they can kill animals and cause serious ecological damage.

Microbeads are usually made of polyethylene. When you are shopping for toothpaste, avoid products that include polyethylene. Microbeads are being phased out, but they may still be found on store shelves.

Consider recyclable materials

Your daily dental tools do not have to pile up in a landfill. Look for toothbrushes and floss made out of recyclable materials.

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Language Assistance

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922).

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922).

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922).

Tagalog (Tagalog – Filipino)

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922).

한국어 (Korean)

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922). 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

繁體中文 (Chinese)

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922)。

Հայերեն (Armenian)

ՈՒՇԱԴՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ԵՐԵ Խոսում էք հայերեն, ապա ձեզ անվճար կարող են տրամադրվել լեզվակցում աջակցություններ: Ձանգահարեք 1-800-322-6384 (TTY (հեռատիպ)՝ 1-800-735-2922):

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1-800-322-6384 (телетайп: 1-800-735-2922).

فارسی (Farsi)

توجه: اگر به زبان فارسی گفتگو می کنید، تسهیلات زبانی بصورت رایگان برای شما فراهم می باشد. با 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922) تماس بگیرید.

日本語 (Japanese)

注意事項：日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922) まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

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Hmoob (Hmong)

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922).

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)

ਧਿਆਨ ਦਿਓ: ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਸੇਵਾ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਮੁਫਤ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ। 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922) 'ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ।

العربية (Arabic)

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 1-800-322-6384 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 1-800-735-2922).

हिंदी (Hindi)

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिंदी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922) पर कॉल करें।

ภาษาไทย (Thai)

เรียน: ถ้าคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถใช้บริการช่วยเหลือทางภาษาได้ฟรี โทร 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922).

ខ្មែរ (Cambodian)

ប្រយ័ត្ន: បរិស្ថានជាអ្នកនិយាយ ភាសាខ្មែរ, បសវន៍នួយខ្លួនភាសា បោយមិនគិតលក្ខណ៍ គឺអាចមានសំរាប់អ្នក។ ចូរ ទូរស័ព្ទ 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922)។

ພາ ສາ ລາ ວ (Lao)

ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ ທ່ານ. ໂທ 1-800-322-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2922).