



Dental Cavities

Small or Medium Cavity

- Small or medium dark hole in the tooth
- May complain of pain



Need to see a dentist within 1 to 2 weeks.

Large Cavity

- Large dark hole in the tooth
- Can have a bad smell
- May complain of bad taste
- Typically complains of pain when eating or drinking hot, cold or sweet items.



Need to see a dentist immediately.

Cavity with Abscess

- May see a hole in the tooth
- A "pimple-like" bump is present on the gums
- May have a bad smell or complain of bad taste
- Typically had pain in the past but may or may not be feeling pain now



Need to see a dentist immediately.

Cavity Causing Severe Infection

- Can be life threatening
- May see a hole in the tooth
- Swollen face
- Swelling may be hot to touch
- May have pain
- May be unable to eat, sleep, play



Need to see a dentist immediately. If the swelling developed overnight or within a few hours refer immediately to a hospital emergency.

Tooth decay (cavities) affects children more than any other chronic infectious disease. Untreated tooth decay causes pain and infections that may lead to difficulties with eating, speaking, playing, learning and sleeping. Children and youth with untreated dental problems may also be teased and bullied.

For further information, please contact us. Our staff speak many languages!



Free Dental Care

Our dental services are offered to children (0-17 years), parents enrolled in selected Toronto Public Health programs and seniors (65 years and older).

To be eligible, the clients:

- must live in Toronto;
- cannot have dental insurance; and
- are not able to pay for a dentist.

Services include:

- Examinations
- Fillings
- Root canal treatment on selected teeth
- Extractions
- Partial and full dentures (a fee may be required for dentures)
- Prevention and education
- Fluoride treatment
- Cleanings
- Sealants

Toronto Public Health has several dental clinics. Our staff speak many languages and are happy to assist your clients.

If your clients are not eligible for our free services, they may qualify for dental care at a reduced cost in another facility.

To find a Toronto Public Health dental clinic visit toronto.ca/health/dental/locations.htm or call 311 for information.

