

# Visiting a Dental Office

## VISITING A DENTAL OFFICE

The health of your mouth affects the health of your whole body. In the United States, we are fortunate to have educated, dedicated and compassionate licensed dental professionals to assist in taking care of us by teaching us how to take care of our teeth and mouth. Dentists and dental hygienists are interested in preventing as much oral disease as possible and making children and adults comfortable by providing pain-free, high-quality dental care.



## WHAT IS A REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST?

Registered dental hygienists (RDH) are licensed professionals who are specialists in preventing oral diseases. In Nevada, dental hygienists must be licensed to provide preventive dental treatments such as oral health instruction, cleaning teeth, taking x-rays, applying fluoride treatments and dental sealants. Dental hygienists work with dentists in private dental offices and clinics, and they may also work in other settings including schools to provide dental care to children.



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## WHAT IS A DENTIST?

A dentist is a licensed professional who diagnoses and treats dental diseases, injuries and problems of the teeth and mouth. Dentists may specialize in several different areas, such as pedodontics (children), orthodontics (braces) and oral surgery. Some dentists choose to become a pedodontist, which is a dentist who has several more years of training to treat infants and children, including children with special health care needs.



Dentists work in the same places as dental hygienists, but they focus on treating diseases of the mouth, whereas dental hygienists focus on preventing dental diseases.

**GOOD ORAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT TO GOOD  
OVERALL HEALTH!!!**