



MEDIA STATEMENT

TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

PRACTICE GOOD ORAL HYGIENE TO AVOID MOUTH AILMENTS

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) would like to remind the public, as the country observes the national Oral Health Month this September, to practice good oral hygiene in order to avoid mouth ailments such as cavities and gum disease.

Gum disease and cavities rank amongst the world's most common health problems and can be avoided with regular good oral hygiene. Additionally, gum disease has been linked to coronary heart disease, adverse pregnancy outcomes and diabetes.

The GDoH urges the public to make use of oral health services that are offered at public health clinics and hospitals across the province.

Services include dental consultations and oral health education, dental extractions, fillings, scaling and polishing (cleaning), fissure sealants, implants, orthodontics, dentures, crown and bridge, maxillofacial and oral surgery and laser treatment in dentistry.

In the last financial year (2020/2021) over 320 000 patients presented at various health facilities for oral services. The most requested services were extractions (319 419), fillings (16668), dentures (3 565), orthodontic treatment (2479), implants (828). For the same period, the Department had registered 69238 children on the brushing programme.

Furthermore, the province is expanding specialised dental services to District Health Services in order to alleviate the high demand for specialised dental services at the Oral Health Centres (OHC) and Dental Schools.

This is helping with the reduction of waiting times for specialised services at OHCs, and it is improving patient experience of care.

An extended teaching platform for Wits Oral Health Centre is being built at Zola Community Health Centre. This state-of-the-art facility is being built where Zola Dental Clinic used to stand. This will assist to bring specialised services closer to the communities.

Patients will have access to services that were previously not available to them and will no longer have to travel long distances to access these services. The Oral Health Centres, as teaching institutions, are leading the way in the introduction and advancement of lasers in dentistry.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Health

**For more information, contact Kwara Kekana, Spokesperson:
Gauteng MEC for Health, 082 737 7227 or
mediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za**

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