Oral Health and HPV

Did you know? A virus can cause throat cancer.

Oral health affects our overall health, including our body, mind and spirit.

What you can do:

1. Ask your dental care provider to check for oral cancer.

An oral screening is usually done as part of a regular dental exam. Dental screenings, x-rays and exams are covered under the First Nations Health Benefits program for eligible Clients.
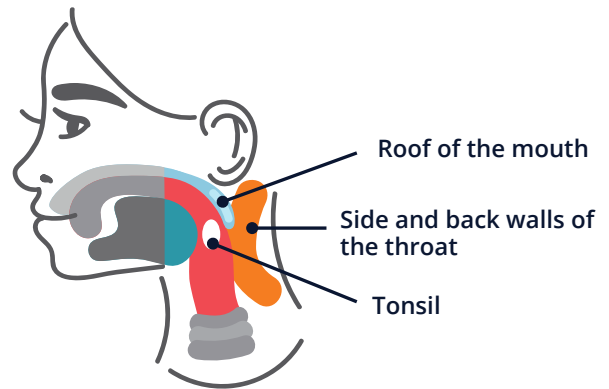
2. Check your mouth for signs.

If you have symptoms, try to see a doctor or nurse.

3. Consider the HPV vaccine.

It helps prevent cancers caused by HPV. It's over 95% effective and free for eligible youth in BC.

HPV = Human Papillomavirus

HPV is a virus that can lead to 6 types of cancers, including the mouth and throat.

- Roof of the mouth
- Side and back walls of the throat
- Tonsil

Signs and symptoms may include:

- Sore throat that doesn't go away
- Feeling of something stuck in your throat
- Lump in the neck
- Hoarse or quieter voice
- Trouble swallowing
- Ear pain
- Weight loss
- A sore or ulcer that does not heal within 2 weeks

Some people have no symptoms