

What to Expect At Your First Dental Visit

At Buffalo Family Dentistry, our dental staff is committed to providing each patient with positive, effective dental treatment. As a dental team, we have a combined 110 years plus experience of providing quality dental care and are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your first dentist visit.

When you first come to our practice, you will be welcomed by our front desk staff. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about your dental coverage and finances. They will ensure that all of your personal and medical information is current, so that we can provide you with the appropriate care. Please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your appointment time. Bring with you completed forms and your dental insurance card.

After your paperwork has been completed, we will begin a comprehensive dental assessment. We will review your medical and dental history. Mention everything about your health, even if you don't think it relates to your mouth. Many diseases can affect your mouth and teeth. Researchers continue to discover ways in which oral health is related to overall health. For example, people with diabetes are at a higher risk of developing periodontal disease. Bring a list of all medicines you take, with dosages. Some medicines cause dry mouth which can increase the risk of tooth decay.

For Dr. Stangl to conduct a thorough exam, it is important that we have current radiographs. If you have brought or transferred cavity detecting x-rays less than one year old and a full mouth series of x-rays or panoramic x-ray less than three years old from a previous dentist, we would not have to take any x-rays before proceeding with the exam. In cases where there are no current x-rays available, we will either obtain a full series of x-rays, or a panoramic x-ray with four bite-wing x-rays. These are necessary x-rays so that we can properly diagnose any issues that cannot be seen by the naked eye. Our practice uses digital x-ray technology. Digital x-rays use significantly less radiation than traditional systems and with immediate results.

Once the dental x-rays are taken, we will chart any existing dental work you have had into our computer system. And check the health of your gums and bone levels. After which the hygienist will be equipped to determine the amount of time needed for your hygiene care appointment. At that time you may or may not have your teeth cleaned. Some patients receive a standard cleaning to thoroughly cleanse all surfaces of the teeth. Other patients may require a more intensive treatment to address diseased gums, which may require additional appointments.

During your time with the hygienist, Dr. Stangl will welcome himself in for your comprehensive exam. He will review your radiographs, examine your teeth for decay or failing fillings, check for bone loss and perform an oral cancer exam. He will address any concerns and answer any questions you may have related to your oral health. Before the conclusion of your exam, you will be given the opportunity to discuss the findings of the exam and what's involved with any treatment. Your treatment plan is designed to prevent small issues from getting bigger and more expensive. While Dr. Stangl will provide you with the expert guidance you deserve, your questions are always welcome and you always have the final say in your treatment.

You will have a printed treatment plan designed just for you. One of our front desk staff will again review it with you to ensure you understand it fully. You can then proceed to scheduling an appointed time for the necessary treatment. The front desk will answer any additional questions you may have about our fees and how your insurance benefits work. They are experts when it comes to insurance.

If you have any questions when you return home or if there's anything you don't understand, please call. We want to make sure you understand and feel comfortable with your recommended treatment.