

## What Is Oral Cancer Screening?

A dentist or doctor looks for signs of cancer in your mouth. Screening may find mouth cancer early, when treatment works better.

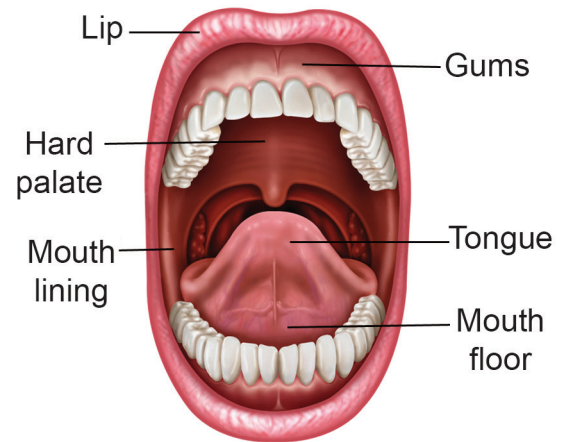
## Who Can Benefit from Screening?

Oral cancer screening can help people who have a higher risk. Here are some things that raise your risk of oral cancer:

- Infection with a type of human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV can infect the tonsils and back of throat after unprotected oral sex. It causes most oral cancers in the United States.
- Any kind of tobacco use, including these:
  - Cigarettes
  - Chewing tobacco
  - Cigars
  - Snuff
  - Pipes
- Smoking *and* drinking alcohol. People who use both have a higher risk than people who use either alone.
- Sun exposure. Long-term sun exposure to the face increases the risk of cancer on the lips.
- A previous diagnosis of oral cancer.

## How Is Oral Cancer Screening Done?

Your dentist or doctor can check for signs of oral cancer during a routine check-up. The doctor or dentist looks inside your mouth and throat for sores or lumps that could become cancer. The exam also includes checking your neck for lumps.



*Areas where oral cancer can start*

## What Are Warning Signs of Oral Cancer?

Make an appointment with your doctor or dentist if any of these last longer than 2 weeks:

- Sore throat that doesn't heal
- Changes inside your mouth
  - Lump or thickening
  - White or reddish patch
  - Loose teeth
  - Change in the way your dentures fit
- Tongue pain
- Jaw pain or stiffness
- Difficult or painful chewing
- Feeling that something is caught in your throat

For more information about oral cancer, contact the  
G. Mitchell Morris Cancer Learning Center  
at Huntsman Cancer Institute:

**Stop by**  
1950 Circle of Hope  
6th floor of HCI's hospital

**Call**  
1-888-424-2100 toll free

**Text**  
"askhci" to 66746

**Chat live**  
Click the "Ask a Question"  
button on our webpage

**Email**  
cancerinfo@hci.utah.edu

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www.huntsmancancer.org/clc