



Delta Dental of Washington

Oral Cancer Screening Aimed at College Students Comes to UW

Floss Boss Mobile, Delta Dental of Washington & UW School of Dentistry Partner to Offer Free Oral Cancer Screenings at UW's Red Square, April 1

SEATTLE – March 29, 2024 – In recognition of National Oral Cancer Awareness Month (April), local dental professionals are offering oral cancer screenings to University of Washington students and staff to bring attention to – and help with early detection of – oral cancer.

The free screening – hosted by [Floss Boss Mobile](#), [Delta Dental of Washington](#) and [UW School of Dentistry](#) – will take place **9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, April 1** at [Red Square](#) on University of Washington's Seattle campus. Each screening takes approximately 10 minutes, and no appointment is necessary.

The screenings will be performed by UW School of Dentistry student volunteers under the supervision of Lina Kim, DDS, who is the founder and CEO of Floss Boss Mobile, a community-oriented mobile dentistry clinic. Each screening involves a clinician's view inside the mouth to check for white patches or mouth sores, as well as a check for lumps or other abnormalities. In addition, a non-invasive light technology is used to detect mouth tissue changes which may not be visible under a normal white light examination.

Oral cancer is most common among older adults and incidence rates in the [State of Washington](#) are higher than the rest of the country. Since the mid-2000s, rates for both males and females have shown a small, but significant increase according to the [National Cancer Institute](#). The incidence rate overall for adults is 11.5 per 100,000 and 12.5 in Washington state.

According to the [Oral Cancer Foundation](#), nearly 58,500 Americans will be diagnosed with oral or oropharyngeal cancer this year. The death rate is considered high for oral cancer, not because the disease itself is that deadly, but because it tends to be caught late.

What is oral cancer?

Oral cancer is formed in your mouth cavity in the tongue, lips, and floor of your mouth. Oral cancer can be caused or influenced by tobacco and/or alcohol consumption, HPV infection, or excessive sun exposure to your mouth and lips. People over the age of 50 more commonly are at the highest risk of getting oral cancer due to the years of tobacco and alcohol consumption and increase of age.

Signs and symptoms for oral cancer include:

- Sore throat
- Bleeding mouth without healing
- Persistent red or white patch, lump, or thickening in the throat or mouth
- Ear pain

- Neck mass
- Coughing up blood
- Difficulty chewing or swallowing
- Difficulty moving the tongue or jaw

How is oral cancer treated?

The type of treatment for oral cancer is case-dependent and unique to your condition and the cause of your cancer. There are three main forms of treatment for oral cancer: surgery/radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy. Surgery or radiation is the most standard forms of treatments for oral cancer. Chemotherapy is a higher risk treatment left for more critical cases of oral cancer. The third option is immunotherapy which is a newer option performed on advanced and recurrent oral cancer patients. It is important to consult with your dentist about the best option for you and plan for the recovery from your procedure.

For more information, visit the Delta Dental of Washington [blog](#).

About Floss Boss Mobile

[Floss Boss](#) is a mobile dental clinic founded by Dr. Lina Kim designed to bridge the gap between oral hygiene and accessibility. Dr. Kim and her staff can see up to 24 patients a day from three chairs on a mobile dentist office that can perform most basic dental procedures like cleanings and cancer screenings. The Floss Boss mobile unit parks at locations both central to corporate clients and in communities and neighborhoods with several small businesses to enhance accessibility. Floss Boss accepts insurance. Patients can make appointments online [here](#) by selecting days and locations that are most convenient to them.

About Delta Dental of Washington

Founded 70 years ago by Seattle area dentists who set out to revolutionize oral health care, an innovative program was developed to provide longshoremens' children access to dental care – and the concept of dental benefits was born. Today [Delta Dental of Washington](#), a not-for-profit, is the state's leading dental benefits provider covering nearly 4 million people statewide and beyond.

Through corporate philanthropy, oral health advocacy, and funding the [Arcora Foundation](#), Delta Dental of Washington plays a vital role in making dental care more equitable and accessible, increasing dental health education with an emphasis on youth, and expanding diversity at all levels within the dental profession. These collective efforts aim to improve oral health care in Washington so all people can enjoy good oral and overall health with no one left behind. Delta Dental of Washington is part of the Delta Dental Plans Association, consisting of 39 independent, affiliated member companies. For more information, visit: www.deltadentalwa.com.

About UW School of Dentistry

The [University of Washington School of Dentistry](#) is a worldwide leader in dental education and research. The school provides comprehensive clinical care and plays a major role in public health through its service to people with disabilities and efforts to improve access to care for underserved communities.