

Dental Hygiene

What is Dental Hygiene?

Dental Hygienists are registered healthcare professionals that are involved in maintaining good oral healthcare, with a focus on public education.

What do Dental Hygienists do?

Dental Hygienists work directly with patients to assess gum and tooth health, suggest individualized hygiene options, and refer for dental treatments. They collaborate with other health professionals to ensure optimal oral health of their patients.

Where do Dental Hygienists work?

Dental Hygienists can work in a variety of settings:

- Clinical Practice
- Educational Institutions
- Public or Community Healthcare
- The Military
- Forensic Labs
- Consulting Firms
- Regulatory bodies

Education and Preparation

Dental Hygiene programs are offered in colleges and universities throughout Canada. The degree programs are offered in four years, and the diploma programs are offered in two years.

Licensure

Dental Hygienists are regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 and the Dental Hygiene Act, 1991.

Dental hygienists must successfully complete a two-year program to be regulated under the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario.

Professional Associations

Canadian Dental Hygienists Association

www.cdha.ca

College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario

<http://www.cdho.org>