



Did You Know that...

1. 29% of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution employees are considered at high risk for tooth decay. Of that 29%, only 61% received at least 2 cleanings last year.

It's important for people with recent tooth decay to visit their dentist regularly. Delta Dental of Massachusetts covers checkups and cleanings at 100% once every 6 months!

2. 15% of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution employees have periodontal (gum) disease but only (half) of them returned for 2 cleanings and only 8% of them received the 4 cleanings last year that their Delta Dental of Massachusetts benefits allow!

Evidence suggests that when patients with a previous history of periodontal disease take advantage of periodontal cleanings up to four times per year, the result is typically a decreased likelihood of the periodontal disease returning. This is compared to patients receiving periodontal cleanings on a less frequent basis.

Delta Dental of Massachusetts covers periodontal cleanings once every 3 months following active periodontal treatment at 100%.

3. 15% of children (ages 6-15) enrolled under the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution dental plan are considered at high risk for tooth decay. Out of that 15%, only 37% received 2 topical fluoride treatments last year.

Past experience with dental decay is a warning of possible future decay. Children at moderate to high risk for cavities (caries) should receive a professional fluoride treatment every 6 months. Studies show that children who follow this guideline have 24% fewer cavities.

Ask your child's dentist about fluoride treatments. Your Delta Dental of Massachusetts benefits cover fluoride treatments once every 6 months for children under age 19 at 100%.

4. Sealants are one of the most successful treatments dentists have to help prevent cavities in children. They've been shown to reduce tooth decay by upwards of 85% in the chewing surfaces of permanent molar teeth.

Only around 20% of children in the United States have sealants on their teeth. Talk with your child's dentist about the benefits of sealing permanent molars.

You'll be glad to know that your Delta Dental of Massachusetts benefit plan covers sealants at 100% for children through age 15. Sealants are also covered for members aged 16 up to age 19 for those who had a recent cavity and are at risk for tooth decay.