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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso Celebrates National Children’s Dental Health Month

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is recognizing National Children’s Dental Health Month throughout February by highlighting the importance of children’s overall health and well-being.

This year’s theme, “Healthy Habits for Healthy Smiles” emphasizes that good oral health is an essential part of overall child health. This month unites dental professionals, healthcare providers, and educators nationwide to promote the benefits of good oral health. The city is expanding this message to include early access to supportive services, nutrition, physical activity to assist children to thrive at home, in school and in the community.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that children with poor oral and overall health are more likely to miss school and experience learning challenges. Untreated cavities can cause pain, infection, and difficulty eating, speaking, and learning. More than one in five children ages 2 to 5 have at least one cavity in their primary teeth, and children from low-income families are more than twice as likely to have untreated dental disease. The good news is cavities-and many other childhood health conditions- are preventable with early care and healthy habits.

As part of National Children’s Dental Health Month, Rawlings Dental Clinic, encourages families to prioritize regular preventive dental screenings.

DENTAL TIPS

Health officials encourage families to help children avoid cavities and maintain healthy gums by following these tips:

- Wiping infants’ gums after feeding and avoid putting infants to bed with a bottle.
- Brushing teeth twice a day using a pea size amount of fluoride toothpaste.
- Flossing between teeth daily.
- Eating a healthy diet by limiting sugary and acidic foods and beverages.
- Seeing a dentist regularly, every six months.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

City of El Paso residents, with or without dental insurance, are encouraged to schedule an appointment at the DPH Rawlings Dental Clinic, 3301 Pera Ave.

The clinic offers pediatric dental services for individuals 6 months to 21 years, including:

- Comprehensive and initial dental exams
- Diagnostic X-rays

—more—



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- Preventive services such as, cleanings, fluoride applications, sealants, and oral hygiene education with hygiene products provided
- Restorative services such as, fillings, pulpotomies, stainless steel crowns, space maintainers, root canal therapy, and extractions
- Nutritional counseling
- Medical and dental specialty referrals as needed

FINANCIAL OPTIONS

Medicaid, CHIP, and private insurance are accepted. Families without insurance may qualify for assistance based on household income. Eligibility requirements include:

- Provide proof of current address (utility bill)
- Provide proof of relationship to the patient (birth certificate, legal guardianship documentation, or Medicaid form)
- Provide verification of most recent Gross Income for the household (3 check stubs, employer letter, social security, or SSI).

Patients without other resources may qualify for a sliding-fee schedule based on family income.

Routine and emergency appointments are available. For more information on eligibility or to schedule an appointment, call (915) 212-8000.

[Rawlings Dental Clinic PSA](#)

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