# HOW TO PROTECT YOUR MOUTH as you get older

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT ORAL HEALTH IS KEY TO AGEING WELL?

Though dental challenges may increase with age, preventive care helps you enjoy a healthy, happy life as you get older.

### ADOPT GOOD ORAL HYGIENE HABITS

Most oral diseases are preventable; therefore, pain and infections can be avoided by brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and cleaning between the teeth. Additionally, it is essential to clean removable dentures daily.

#### **REDUCE THE RISK OF FALLS**

If a tooth becomes loose, or if a denture no longer fits properly, go to the dentist as soon as possible. The jaw contributes to balance.

## ENJOY HEALTHY AND DIVERSE FOODS

Prepare well-balanced meals and avoid eating snacks, particularly those rich in sugar, between meals. Limit sweet treats to the end of the meal.

#### **AVOID DRY MOUTH**

Chew sugar-free gum, suck sugar-free hard candies, drink water with meals, drink small amounts of water regularly throughout the day, use alcohol-free mouth rinse, and use a lip balm to soothe cracked or dry lips.







