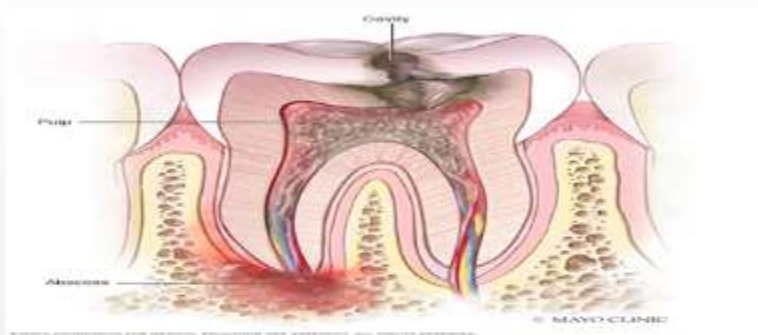


# OK Senior Smiles Project



*Poor oral hygiene can lead to diseases that result in death.*

## Three ways OK Senior Smiles can help in the fight of COVID-19:

1. As people get older their immune system grows weaker. Harmful bacteria in the mouth from poor oral hygiene or decay can enter the blood stream. This causes inflammation, which weakens immune system even more.
2. Poor oral hygiene is a contributing factor in respiratory infections, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and diabetes. These pre-existing conditions are the reason some people are more vulnerable to serious complications from COVID-19.
3. Breathing in harmful bacteria is a significant risk factor for aspiration pneumonia. Pneumonia sends many LTC residents to the hospital. It is important to keep LTC residents out of the hospital and to prevent exposure to COVID-19.

## Three things OK Senior Smiles will provide:

1. **ORAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR STAFF**, focused on improving oral health in LTC residents.
2. **A FREE, EASY-TO-USE ORAL HEALTH EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT**, for sustainability of training in LTC facilities.
3. **ACCESS TO OSDH'S REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST**, to provide oral health basic screenings and educational opportunities for LTC nursing home residents and their families.