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## **Signs And Symptoms Of Tooth Decay**

Tooth decay may not cause symptoms until the caries have progressed into the dentin or, worse, the pulp of the tooth. When this occurs, symptoms may start with:

- Sensitivity to cold and sweets.
- White, gray, brown, or black spots on the teeth.
- Loose fillings.
- A broken tooth or a tooth that is sensitive to pressure or when biting.
- A “toothache”. When the decay and bacteria reaches the pulp, then a dental infection that can lead to an abscess may occur. The tooth will hurt when you bite on it AND when you let go. The tooth may also have lingering pain after exposure to heat.

Severe tooth decay may cause a pus-filled sac (abscess) to form in the bone at the base of a tooth. This infection can spread throughout your body. Symptoms of an abscess include:

- Severe pain or significant facial swelling.
- Swollen and tender glands in the area just below the jaw and into the neck.
- Deep, throbbing pain that is made worse with heat and slightly better with cold.
- Re-bound pain: The tooth hurts when you bite on it but is worse when you let go.
- Lingering pain: Pain that can be extreme when hot fluids or food come in contact with the tooth and stays painful even after the hot item is removed.