

## THE CANARY SYSTEM® Frequently Asked Questions for Dental Office Webpage

### **What is The Canary System and what does it do?**

The Canary System is a low-power, pulsating laser that uses infrared sensors to detect subtle changes in heat and light (less than 1 degrees Celsius) to examine for the presence of tooth demineralization (structural breakdown) and early dental decay. It can find decay in areas that are undetectable to the eye, up to 5mm below the tooth surface, and in areas that are difficult to detect with dental x-rays.

### **How will The Canary help me with my oral health?**

The Canary System allows your dental professional to quantify tooth demineralization (breakdown) and decay much sooner than when it could be detected by dental x-ray. If demineralization or decay is identified, they will use their expertise to determine whether the area can be remineralized (healed) or restored (i.e., filling). When decay is caught early, it allows for a smaller and less costly restoration. The Canary System can also help to identify advanced and subsurface decay that might have otherwise gone undetected using visual inspection or dental x-ray, preventing the need for more costly root canals or crowns.

### **Does it hurt?**

No, The Canary System is safe, pain-free, and non-invasive. A handpiece or wand is simply held steady on your tooth for 5 seconds during the scan. Next, you will hear your Canary Number. The Canary Number will be explained to you by your dental health professional, which will help you understand the findings and possible treatments.

### **Does The Canary Use Radiation?**

No – there is no radiation. The Canary uses a low-powered laser that is non-invasive and not harmful.

### **How long will the Canary scan take?**

A Canary scan takes just seconds for each area being examined. Your dentist and hygienist will determine which areas to scan at each visit; the total time involved is usually 3-5 minutes. Occasionally, they may suggest for you to return for a more detailed scan to provide additional information.

### **How much is it going to cost?**

Typically the Canary Scan is performed as part of a new patient or routine hygiene exam without additional cost. From time to time, your dental professional may suggest more detailed scanning and would discuss fees with you at that time.

### **Are there any risks to having a Canary Scan?**

None. It is safe, pain-free and non-invasive and provides early detection of tooth demineralization (breakdown) and decay. In fact, there are huge benefits to a Canary Scan...you can be confident that issues are caught early, saving tooth structure and money in the long run.