

## Leanne Higgs, Turks and Caicos Islands

Leanne is licensed in Canada with the Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association but lives in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is trail blazer on an interesting journey from being the first dental hygienist to be licensed in the Turks and Caicos Islands to now being the first to open an independent dental hygiene business. She is a very hardworking person and cares a lot for her clients.

Leanne has a great personality, is very informative, super-professional, and loves what she does. She's the sweetest and nicest super hygienist ever. She makes sure my teeth and gums are healthy. She even taught me what to do if I was in a sticky position. She makes having my mouth cleaned super easy and super fun. She says "With Great Teeth Comes Great Responsibility" e.

She is thorough and puts patients at ease! Leanne offers excellent care, not to mention providing the information that allows me to connect my dental and oral health to other aspects of health. She recommends follow-up with other health care professionals and she is always ready to contribute her knowledge to the wider community, participating at health fairs with other health professionals. Leanne has also developed a strong rapport with children. She keeps it fun, educational, and participatory. I respect that, as an expat, she maintains professional accreditation in Canada, and travels for conferences and education.

Leanne is the absolute best and very passionate about oral health. She is warm, caring, and professional. She takes great care of my family, keeps us on track with appointments, and offers professional advice for home oral care.

I used to hate going to the dentist...then I met Leanne! What a blessing. Not only is she the most pleasant and welcoming dental professional I have ever had the pleasure to interact with, she is my superhero because she educated (and continues to educate) me on gum health. I now floss daily (several times) and I understand why it is important for me to keep my gums healthy. I understand the link between gum health and heart health. Knowledge is power. My superhero Leanne empowered me and has helped me to empower others. She is a real unsung hero!



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I've worked with her for years and she's the most gentle, caring dental hygienist I've ever known. She's very thorough when doing cleaning, which means you can always count on her to spot any issue you might have in your mouth.

She has been absolutely amazing with my kids. They want to take care of their teeth because of her!

In our community Leanne stands for oral health. She is a great motivator to children and adults alike, making good oral health not only great to have but also easy to achieve.

My daughter started going to Leanne—her first dental hygienist—as a scared little girl. Leanne put her at ease, and she now looks after her teeth and recites what Ms Leanne tells her.

Leanne works hard to accommodate people with difficult schedules, she volunteers in the community, she's the first hygienist in the country, and she raises awareness of the importance of dental hygiene and preventive dentistry.

Leanne Higgs moved to the Turks and Caicos Islands in the early 90s. Back then, the concept of dental hygiene was foreign to the country. Leanne was a forerunner in getting the practice started in the country. She also gives back often to her community by conducting and participating in lectures, workshops, and educational initiatives at every opportunity. She takes time to ensure that all her clients are well educated on the benefits of good dental health.

Leanne is a pioneer in Turks and Caicos Islands, becoming the first registered dental hygienist on the island. She is also licensed in Canada. Leanne worked really hard to educate people and children on the island of the importance of good oral hygiene. Also, she was brave enough after having a spine surgery and before hurricane Irma hit the islands to open the first independent dental hygiene business. She also managed to organize the first course involving all health care providers on the island: "Oral health and systemic disease and the sick generation," presented by Anne Guignon, RDH.







Leanne is a superhero because she is fearless in promoting dental hygiene. Twenty years ago she introduced dental hygiene to the Turks and Caicos Islands and was the only hygienist in the country for five years. She now is opening her own practice and dental hygiene is flourishing in the Turks and Caicos Islands due to her efforts.

Leanne is super thorough, caring, gentle, and genuinely interested in your dental health and overall well-being. She effortlessly puts you at ease—both adults and kids. My teeth and my daughter's teeth literally sparkle whenever we get a cleaning. My sister lives in New York, and each summer when she and her son visit, they do a cleaning with Leanne.

Leanne is the most caring and patient person ever. I hadn't had my teeth cleaned in over 12 years until I met Leanne and, because she knows I'm fearful, she takes her time and explains everything to me so that I'm comfortable with all that's going on. I've learned so much about maintaining healthy teeth and gums all thanks to Leanne. I take pleasure in nominating her.

Leanne is passionate about her work and her clients through all ages and stages of dental care.

Leanne is a trail blazer, becoming the first licensed hygienist in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1996. But she is really a hero because of her work in her community with underprivileged children, her active participation in Gift from the Heart, and her teaching dental hygiene education at community health fairs. An active member of her community, Leanne is kind lady who gives back. She loves her profession. A five-minute conversation with her will reveal that dental hygiene is her passion. She is a superhero!



