



Coronavirus updates and guidance for dental procedures

Hello.

Delta Dental of Oregon understands the disruption and uncertainty resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) and will be sharing some resources with your clients to help keep them informed.

On March 19, the State of Oregon mandated that all dental professionals suspend and postpone all elective and non-urgent oral health procedures until June 15 for the purpose of conserving and redirecting personal protective equipment (PPE) for the state's COVID-19 emergency response.

Prioritization will focus on treatment for patients experiencing dental emergencies, as defined by the American Dental Association (ADA):

Dental emergency

Dental emergencies are potentially life threatening and require immediate treatment to stop ongoing tissue bleeding, alleviate severe pain or infection, and include:

- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Cellulitis or a diffuse soft tissue bacterial infection with intra-oral or extra-oral swelling that could potentially compromise the patient's airway
- Trauma involving facial bones, potentially compromising the patient's airway

Urgent dental care

Urgent dental care focuses on the management of conditions that require immediate attention to relieve severe pain and/or risk of infection, such as:

- Severe dental pain or swelling from an infected tooth
- Wisdom tooth pain
- Dry socket dressing changes for the treatment of current infection
- Broken tooth resulting in pain or swelling
- Dental treatment required prior to critical medical procedures

We encourage members who are experiencing a dental emergency or who require urgent dental care to contact their dental provider's office. If they do not have a dental provider, they should contact our customer service department for help finding care.

Dental providers are able to provide limited oral evaluations completed via tele-dentistry during this time in lieu of an in-person visit. Contact your dental provider to see if this is something that is offered.

Frequency Limitations: Limited exams will not impact frequency limitations in place or negatively impact a comprehensive exam later in the year.

Orthodontia care

Please note that non-emergency orthodontia treatment will also cease during this time. If members are experiencing discomfort, they should contact their orthodontist for guidance.

Additional Resources

You can find more information regarding these announcements by visiting the ADA and the Oregon Dental Society (ODA) websites.