

In an effort to continue providing our patients with proper oral health, while also taking into account the concerns that COVID-19 bring up, below is a guide to determine **“Essential, Non-Essential, and Emergency”** dental procedures in a time of a national emergency. This is meant to be a GUIDE, and a dentist’s judgement of the situation, based on the patient’s presentation and risk factors, should be the way to make the ultimate decision.

“Essential” treatments are those which should be treated in order to prevent a dental emergency at a later period of time. By providing essential treatments, the intention is to prevent situations where dental patients are visiting our hospital’s ERs and preventing our doctors from focusing on the current COVID situation.

“Emergency” treatments are those that are addressing trauma, severe pain, swelling, and infection. These are patients that if they are not able to be seen by a dentist in a timely manner, will ultimately end up seeking treatment in our emergency rooms. They should be able to contact their dentist, and be seen in a timely manner (if they do not show symptoms of the COVID-19 virus).

Note: Patients age 65 and older should be treated at a time when there are no other patients in the office, in order to follow “social distancing” protocols.

Restorative (Adults and Pedo)

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
Fillings/Restorations			
Incipient to Mild Decay			X
Moderate Decay		X	
Severe Decay	X	X	
Tooth Fracture			
Pain (Includes pain and “discomfort”)	X	X	
No Pain			X
Crowns			
Initiation of Moderate-Severe Decay and completion of treatment (RCT)		X	
Delivery of Prepared Teeth to prevent future complications/emergencies		X	
Veneers			X
Pro-Active Replacement			X

Perio & Hygiene (Adults and Pedo)

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
New Patient (No pain)			X
Recall			X
Continuing Care			X
SRP of patients WITH health risk factors		X	
SRP of healthy patients			X

Perio Maintenance of patients with health risk factors		X	
SRP of healthy patients			X
Gingivitis			X

Emergency Patients (Adults and Peds)

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
	X	X	

Perio & Oral Surgery (Adults and Peds)

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
Active Infection	X	X	
Patient in Pain	X	X	
Swelling or cellulitis	X	X	
Third molars WITHOUT above symptoms			X
Implants			X

Endodontics

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
Active Infection	X	X	
Patient in Pain	X	X	
Swelling or Cellulitis	X	X	

Prosthodontics

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
Bridges			X
Dentures and Removables to facilitate patient's ability to eat		X	

Cosmetic

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
Bleaching, Veneers			X

Orthodontics

Procedure Type	EMERGENCY	Essential	Non-Essential
Traditional Orthodontic Treatment*		X*	
Invisalign Treatment			X

***NOTE:** Mid-Treatment orthodontics dealing with expansion, extrusion, or intrusion may be deemed essential based upon the case and difficulty