

Essential vs. Non-Essential Dental Procedures

This guide is to help dentists identify which dental procedures are considered Essential vs. Non-Essential during a national emergency. Dentists are to use the below as a guide, and encouraged to make professional judgement calls on the urgency of any procedure during emergencies. Patients with non-essential needs should be encouraged to maintain oral hygiene practices to maintain their current status. Please note: All procedures should also consider risk factors associated with demographics more susceptible to COVID-19, such as elderly patients.

Specialty	Procedure Type	Essential	Non-Essential
Restorative	Fillings/Restorations		
	<i>Incipient to Mild Decay</i>		x
	<i>Moderate Decay</i>		x
	<i>Severe Decay</i>	x	
	Fracture tooth repair		
	<i>Pain</i>	x	
	<i>No Pain (if patient feels uncomfortable, consider that patient in pain)</i>		x
	Crown		
	<i>Crowns to be completed to navigate completion of care for moderate - severe decay as well as to complete RCT</i>	x	
	<i>Proactive replacement of restoration without decay</i>		x
	Veneers		x
Cosmetics	Cosmetic procedures		x
Endodontics	<i>Active Infection</i>	x	
	<i>Patient in Pain</i>	x	
	<i>Swelling or cellulitis</i>	x	
Emergency Patients	<i>Any patient who is contacting the practice with urgent needs should be seen to decrease overflow to Emergency Departments</i>	x	
Hygiene	<i>New Patient</i>		x
	<i>Recall</i>		x
	<i>Continuing Care</i>		x
Oral Surgery	Extractions		
	<i>Active Infection</i>	x	
	<i>Patient in Pain</i>	x	
	<i>Swelling or cellulitis</i>	x	
	<i>Third Molar without the above symptoms</i>		x
	Implants		x
Orthodontics	<i>New Bandings</i>		x
	<i>Patient complications (wire or bracket fractures)</i>	x	
	<i>Recall</i>		x
	<i>Debond*</i>		x
	<i>*Doctor to make judgement on if recall has extended time period and warrants a visit.</i>		
Periodontics	Initial Therapy SRP or Maintenance		
	<i>Patient has additional risk factors (Diabetes, Cardiac disease)</i>	x	
	<i>No additional risk factors</i>		x
Prosthodontics	Bridges		x
	Dentures and Removables	x	
Pediatrics	<i>Follow guidelines above for specific procedures.</i>		