

What Is a Dental Emergency?



The ADA recognizes that members of the public have questions about whether they should continue to visit their dentist during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because the ADA is currently recommending dentists close their offices to all but emergency care, we have provided guidelines to help patients determine when to consult with their dentist as to whether care should be rescheduled. When in doubt, please call your dentist to determine the best course of action.

Dental care you can reschedule for another time:

- Regular visits for exams, cleanings, and x-rays
- Regular visits for braces
- Removal of teeth that aren't painful
- Treatment of cavities that aren't painful
- Tooth whitening

Dental care that you should have taken care of by a dentist at this time:

- Bleeding that doesn't stop
- Painful swelling in or around your mouth
- Pain in a tooth, teeth or jaw bone
- Gum infection with pain or swelling
- After surgery treatment (dressing change, stitch removal)
- Broken or knocked out tooth
- Denture adjustment for people receiving radiation or other treatment for cancer
- Snipping or adjusting wire of braces that hurts your cheek or gums
- Biopsy of abnormal tissue

For more information, visit [MouthHealthy.org/virus](https://www.mouthhealthy.org/virus).