

How to Determine Emergent Dental Care for Sick Patients

Patient calls with a dental concern. Use *open-ended* questions in the **Dental Triage Tool** to assess if emergency care is required:

- How badly are you hurting? (scale: 1-10)
- How long have you been hurting?
- Can you describe the type of pain or discomfort you are having?
- How are you sleeping at night?
- What occurred to make your tooth begin to hurt?
- Have you noticed any other symptoms?

Emergency care **is** required – screen patient for COVID-19 symptoms:

- Do you have a fever? Look for greater than 100.4F.
- Do you have a cough?
- Are you experiencing shortness of breath/tight chest?

Emergency care is **not** required – schedule patient for June or later.

Patient **does not** show COVID symptoms – ask patient to come to clinic for treatment.

Check patient's **temperature** upon arrival. Use **routine PPE** during treatment.

Patient **does** show COVID symptoms.

Patient arrives at specified medical entrance of clinic for sick patients. **Medical and dental professionals** evaluate the patient at the door to determine if care should be provided.

Patient **does** need emergency dental care. Use **N95** and **peroxyl isolate**. Treat patient in appropriately **isolated wing of clinic**.

Patient **does not** need emergency dental care at this time. Provide **palliative care** or **antibiotics/analgesics**. Schedule a **follow-up appointment** when patient has recovered.

People with COVID-19 who have completed home isolation clearance can receive emergency dental care:

- At least **3 days (72 hours)** have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first occurred.
- OR
- For individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms, at least **7 days** have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test and have had no subsequent illness.

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