

March 26, 2020

BC Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (BCAOMS)

Recommendations for Emergency Dental Care during COVID-19 Pandemic

This document is intended to reduce community exposure and keep the public and dental community safe. It is also intended to assist dentists and their staff in screening and managing patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. New information is emerging rapidly in relation to this pandemic, and these recommendations will change as we learn more.

Definitions:

1. Emergency Care

- **Infection:**
 - Cellulitis or diffuse swelling with intra- or extra-oral which may compromise the airway
 - Infection which cannot be managed with antibiotics
- **Trauma:**
 - Fracture of facial bones which may compromise the airway
- **Bleeding:**
 - Uncontrolled hemorrhage
- **Pain:**
 - Uncontrolled by analgesics

2. Urgent Care

- **Infection:**
 - Severe pericoronitis
 - Alveolar osteitis
 - Abscess with localized pain and swelling
- **Trauma:**
 - Tooth fracture causing pain or soft tissue trauma
 - Dentoalveolar trauma with avulsion/luxation of teeth
- **Medical concerns:**
 - Dental treatment required prior to critical medical procedures

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Patients should wear a face mask at all times apart from examination and treatment
- Patients should be isolated to a treatment room
- Social distancing of 2 meters

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Gloves – avoid touching multiple surfaces
- Gowns and/or surgical suits with head covers – should be disposable, one time use items
- Face mask, shield, or goggles – should be used to prevent droplets, and/or aerosols from contacting your mouth, nose and eyes
- Non-aerosol generating procedures may occur with surgical masks, however, a fitted N95 mask with normal PPE is preferred.
- Aerosol-generating procedures (the use of handpieces, air/water syringes, and suction) require a fitted N95 mask with normal PPE.
- Droplets can be created anytime a patient talks, coughs or sneezes. Thus, at any given time, regardless of procedure type, one must assume droplets are present. Emerging evidence also suggests that some patients fail to show symptoms for 2-4 days after becoming infected; one should err on the side of caution and wear the proper PPE.
- N95 masks that are for hospital use, and not construction use, require proper certified fitting to obtain at best 95-98% filtration of particles.

Additional Resources, Links, and Locations of Centres for Emergency Dental Care:

www.BCAOMS.ca

