

ADA DENTAL SERVICE RESTRICTIONS IN COVID-19



Updated 27 March

The following system is designed based on published triaging systems in Australia for Dentistry taking into consideration the following key objectives:

- 1) Proportionate, pre-planned response to the possible escalation of COVID-19 based on the evolving community context
- 2) Staged restriction of dental services to reduce transmission risks for COVID-19
- 3) Avoidance of likely burden on medical primary care and emergency services should access to urgent dental care cease.

In all restrictions, urgent dental treatment for people who have been identified as either at moderate to high risk of COVID-19 or confirmed as a COVID-19 case should be provided under transmission based precautions using appropriate PPE as per ADA “Managing COVID-19 Guidelines.”

	Services that can be performed	Restricted services, defer treatment
No restrictions	All dental services	No restrictions apply
Level 1 Restrictions	All dental treatments using standard precautions for people who do not meet epidemiological or clinical risk factors for COVID-19 infection transmission.	<p>Defer non-urgent treatment for people who DO meet epidemiological or clinical symptom criteria for COVID-19 risk.</p> <p>Urgent dental treatment for people who DO meet epidemiological or clinical symptom criteria for COVID-19 risk or confirmed as a COVID-19 case, provided as per ADA Managing COVID-19 Guidelines</p>
Level 2 Restrictions	<p>Provision of dental treatments that are unlikely to generate aerosols or where aerosols generated have the presence of minimal saliva/blood due to the use of rubber dam. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examinations - Simple non-invasive fillings without use of high-speed handpieces - Restorative procedures using high speed handpieces only provided with the use of rubber dam - Non-surgical extractions - Hand scaling (no use of ultrasonic scalers) - Medical management of soft tissue presentations (such as ulcers) - Temporomandibular dysfunction management - Denture procedures - Preventative procedures such as the application of topical remineralising agents e.g. fluoride - Orthodontic treatment 	<p>Defer all treatments that are likely to generate aerosols which may include the use of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - high-speed handpieces without the use of rubber dam - ultrasonic scalers - surgical handpieces <p>All surgical extractions should be referred to specialist oral surgeons/oral and maxillofacial surgeons who will undertake these procedures using transmission based precautions.</p> <p>Elective implant dental treatment should be delayed.</p> <p>Urgent dental treatment for people who DO meet epidemiological or clinical symptom criteria for COVID-19 risk or confirmed as a COVID-19 case, provided as per ADA Managing COVID-19 Guidelines</p>

<p>Level 3 Restrictions</p>	<p>Only dental treatments that do not generate aerosols, or where treatments generating aerosols is limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of patients with acute dental pain e.g. endodontic treatment under rubber dam, or extraction - Management of significantly damaged upper front teeth (e.g. due to trauma, with restorative treatment provided under rubber dam - Soft tissue pathology e.g. ulcers - Management of complex medically compromised patients with dental concerns which may compromise their systemic disease - Management of those at a higher risk of rapid progression of dental disease due to socioeconomic or cultural factors - Management of patients referred by a medical practitioner for medically necessary dental care 	<p>Defer all routine recall examinations and dental treatments for patients not fitting the risk categories identified on the left who present with the following concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extractions of asymptomatic teeth without swelling - Broken or chipped tooth/teeth - Bleeding or sore gums, halitosis - Loose teeth without aspiration risk - Denture concerns - Crown and bridge - Scale and clean - Clicking/grating in jaw joint <p>Urgent dental treatment for people who DO meet epidemiological or clinical symptom criteria for COVID-19 risk or confirmed as a COVID-19 case, provided as per ADA Managing COVID-19 Guidelines</p>
<p>Level 4 Restrictions</p>	<p>Only the following dental treatments are to be managed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swelling of the face, neck or mouth - Dental trauma causing change in the position of teeth, soft tissue damage and/or significant pain - Significant bleeding - Difficulty opening the jaw and/or swallowing - Referral from a specialist medical practitioner for assessment or management of a patient receiving urgent medical care for medically necessary dental care - Dental pain causing loss of sleep - Ulcers persisting for 3 + weeks 	<p>Defer all dental treatments for patients not fitting the risk categories identified on the left.</p> <p>Urgent dental treatment for people who DO meet epidemiological or clinical symptom criteria for COVID-19 risk or confirmed as a COVID-19 case, provided as per ADA Managing COVID-19 Guidelines</p>
<p>Level 5 Restrictions</p>	<p>No routine dental treatment provided. All patients with acute dental concerns to be directed to emergency care centres.</p>	<p>Any dental treatment without expressed permission from the public health authorities.</p>