

## ADA DENTAL SERVICE RESTRICTIONS IN COVID-19



**Updated 12 July 2021**

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 confirmed as COVID-19 positive, should NOT be treated in office-based practice.**

**Dental treatment for patients identified as moderate or high risk of COVID-19 should be provided under transmission based precautions using appropriate PPE as per ADA Transmission Based Precautions document.**

	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.	Defer non-urgent treatment for people who are confirmed, probable or suspected cases in accordance with current Department of Health Case Definitions or State./Territory- specific definitions.
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"> <li>- Examinations</li> <li>- Simple non-invasive fillings without use of high-speed handpieces</li> <li>- Restorative procedures using high speed handpieces only provided with the use of rubber dam</li> <li>- Non-surgical extractions</li> <li>- Hand scaling (no use of ultrasonic scalers)</li> <li>- Medical management of soft tissue presentations (such as ulcers)</li> <li>- Temporomandibular dysfunction management</li> <li>- Denture procedures</li> <li>- Preventative procedures such as the application of topical remineralising agents e.g. fluoride</li> <li>- Orthodontic treatment</li> </ul>	<p>Defer all non-urgent treatments that are likely to generate aerosols which may include the use of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- high-speed handpieces without the use of rubber dam</li> <li>- ultrasonic scalers</li> <li>- surgical handpieces.</li> </ul> <p>Elective implant dental treatment should be delayed.</p> <p>Defer dental treatment for confirmed, probable or suspected cases of COVID-19 where alternative management options (such as antibiotics or pain control) are appropriate until recovered and released from isolation.</p> <p>Urgent treatment for probable or suspected cases of COVID-19 should be provided under transmission- based precautions, including the use of a fit-checked P2 respirator. Please refer to the ADA Level 2 Decision Tree document.</p> <p>Patients confirmed as COVID-19 positive, should NOT be treated in office-based practice as full airborne precautions are required.</p>

<p>Level 3 Restrictions</p>	<p>Provision of dental treatments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that <b>do not</b> generate aerosols such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- dental examinations without the use of a triplex</li> <li>- the use of hand instruments only for periodontal infection</li> <li>- extractions</li> <li>- analgesics or antimicrobials</li> <li>- soft tissue pathology e.g. ulcers</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. where generating aerosols <b>is limited to</b> management of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- acute dental pain by endodontic treatment or restorative treatment of extensive carious lesions under dental dam</li> <li>- significantly damaged upper front teeth e.g. due to trauma, with restorative treatment provided under dental dam</li> <li>- dental/oral health conditions at higher risk of negative outcomes if no access to timely intervention e.g. post-orthognathic surgery review, impacted third molars, impacted canines, loss of temporary crown</li> <li>- complex medically compromised patients with dental concerns which may compromise their systemic disease</li> <li>- a higher risk of rapid progression of dental disease</li> <li>- medically necessary dental care on referral from a medical practitioner.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Defer all routine dental treatment not meeting the criteria on the left.</p> <p>Defer dental treatment for confirmed, probable or suspected cases of COVID-19 where alternative management options (such as antibiotics or pain control) are appropriate until recovered and released from isolation.</p> <p>Urgent treatment for probable or suspected cases of COVID-19 should be provided under transmission- based precautions, including the use of a fit-checked P2 respirator. Please refer to the ADA Level 3 Decision Tree document.</p> <p>Patients confirmed as COVID-19 positive, should NOT be treated in office-based practice as full airborne precautions are required.</p>
<p>Level 4 Restrictions</p>	<p>Only the following dental treatments are to be managed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swelling of the face, neck or mouth</li> <li>- Dental trauma causing change in the position of teeth, soft tissue damage and/or significant pain</li> <li>- Significant bleeding</li> <li>- Difficulty opening the jaw and/or swallowing</li> <li>- Referral from a specialist medical practitioner for assessment or management of a patient receiving urgent medical care for medically necessary dental care</li> <li>- Dental pain causing loss of sleep</li> <li>- Ulcers persisting for 3 + weeks</li> </ul>	<p>Defer all dental treatments for patients not fitting the risk categories identified on the left.</p> <p>Defer dental treatment for confirmed, probable or suspected cases of COVID-19 where alternative management options (such as antibiotics or pain control) are appropriate until recovered and released from isolation.</p> <p>Urgent treatment for probable or suspected cases of COVID-19 should be provided under transmission- based precautions, including the use of a fit-checked P2 respirator.</p> <p>Patients confirmed as COVID-19 positive, should NOT be treated in office-based practice as full airborne precautions are required.</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>Do not perform any dental treatment without express permission from jurisdictional public health authorities.</p>