

## MDA STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY AND URGENT CARE RELATED TO THE COVID - 19 RESPONSE

**MAY 4, 2020**

On April 29, 2020 the Province of Manitoba released “Restoring Safe Services – Manitoba’s Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery.”

Manitoba provincial public health authorities have recognized that the province is emerging out of the COVID-19 Pandemic Phase and into a Transition phase. They outline multiple phases to re-establishing services. In phase 1, **and at the discretion of the respective regulatory bodies**, a return to increased activity for ‘*Therapeutic and Health Care Businesses*’ such as Dentistry, becomes effective May 4<sup>th</sup>.

The MDA is planning a staged approach to re-integration of dental care.

The MDA regulates Dentistry and Dental Assisting in Manitoba in the Public interest and as such is strongly recommending that all non-urgent and elective dental services provided in person remain suspended until further notice. **Effective May 4, 2020 the provision of dentistry may now include both emergency and urgent dental care.**

The MDA strongly advises that the dentist exercise reasonable and prudent judgement for assessing risk in these circumstances.

This is a reminder to members to manage their emergency and urgent dental care for asymptomatic patients only as screened by the most recent Shared Health Screening Tool with appropriate PPE.

The following updated guidance provides direction on the provision of emergency and urgent dental care.

### INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Emergency and urgent dental care should be performed in accordance to the most recent version of the Interim IPC Guidelines Related to COVID-19 Management. This can be found at <https://www.manitobadentist.ca/covid-19-updates.cfm>

### WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY?

Emergency treatment only includes treatment due to a significant infection, acute pain that cannot be managed pharmacologically, oro-facial trauma or prolonged bleeding all of which, as a result, require immediate care.

## WHAT IS URGENT CARE?

In dentistry, urgent care focuses on the management and treatment of conditions that require immediate attention due to a known or suspected malignancy; severe pain; infection or risk of infection, which may include:

- severe dental pain from pulpal inflammation
- pericoronitis or third-molar pain
- surgical post-operative osteitis, dry socket dressing changes
- abscess or localized bacterial infection resulting in localized pain and swelling
- tooth fracture resulting in severe pain, pulp exposure or causing soft tissue trauma
- dental trauma with avulsion/luxation
- final crown/bridge cementation if the temporary restoration is lost, broken or causing gingival irritation
- replacing a temporary filling in an endodontic access opening for patients experiencing pain
- removal of broken appliances or clipping/adjusting an orthodontic wire piercing or ulcerating the oral mucosa
- removal of fixed orthodontic appliances that are not self-limiting and can result in significant irreversible issues.
- treatment required before critical medical procedures can be provided
- suture removal
- TMJ dysfunction management and procedures
- denture adjustment on radiation/oncology patients
- denture adjustments or repairs when function impeded

## WHAT IS NON-URGENT CARE?

In dentistry, non-urgent care is the provision of routine or non-urgent procedures, including:

- recall examinations and routine radiographs
- routine dental cleanings and preventive therapies
- extraction of asymptomatic teeth
- restorative dentistry of asymptomatic carious lesions
- cosmetic dental procedures, including teeth whitening.

The Standard of Practice passed by the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Dental Association on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020 is hereby repealed.

***MDA Statement On Emergency And Urgent Care Related To The COVID - 19 Response is hereby DONE and PASSED by the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Dental Association at Winnipeg, in Manitoba this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.***



**President, Dr. Marc Mollot  
Manitoba Dental Association**



**Registrar, Dr. Arun Misra  
Manitoba Dental Association**