Dentists keep communities safe and healthy during COVID-19

Dentists across the U.S. are continuing to meet the emergency dental needs of their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. By remaining open for emergency procedures, dentists keep patients out of emergency rooms (ER) – reducing the burden on critical health care facilities that are under significant strain due to COVID-19.

76% of U.S. dental offices are seeing emergency patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ADA defines dental emergencies as potentially life threatening and requiring immediate treatment to stop ongoing tissue bleeding, alleviate severe pain or treat infection. This can include:

- Bleeding that doesn’t stop
- Painful swelling in or around the mouth
- Pain in a tooth, teeth or jaw bone
- Gum infection with pain or swelling
- After surgery treatment (dressing change, stitch removal)
- Broken or knocked out tooth

*Guidelines may vary by state.

Routine exams, cleaning and X-rays, filling or removal of teeth that are not painful, orthodontic and tooth whitening procedures are not considered dental emergencies.

Every 14 seconds someone visits a hospital emergency room for dental conditions in the U.S.

ER visits cost three times more than a dental visit.

2.2 million total hospital emergency department visits were for dental conditions in the U.S.

Source: American Dental Association
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