

UPDATED RECOMMENDATION MARCH 18, 2020
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Due to continuing developments concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the West Virginia Board of Dentistry is requesting cooperation from its licensees in limiting dental practices to essential and emergent dental procedures only, until Thursday, April 2, 2020.

When patients present for emergent dental care who are non-symptomatic and have passed screening measures, such dental care is better handled in a dental office rather than an emergency room or urgent care facility. Dentists are much better equipped to address dental emergencies than medical facilities. This is recommended as to not hinder the ability of emergency rooms and other medical facilities by dealing with dental emergencies they may not be equipped to handle.

Should a symptomatic patient require emergency dental treatment, the dentist and the patient's medical providers should work together to determine the appropriate precautions on a case-by-case basis. It may be necessary for treatment to be performed in a healthcare setting that offers additional protections that should be maintained in these cases.

As the Board has stated before, this situation is fluid and the Board will revisit these requests and recommendations when it is deemed necessary.