

# GENERAL DENTISTS SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF ROUTINE AND EMERGENCY DENTAL CARE

As we continue to “advance general dentistry and oral health through quality continuing education and advocacy.” The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) has responded to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) most recent announcement suggesting that dentists, once again, delay elective routine services. The AGD is encouraging individuals to continue **to work with their general dentists for the coordination of all their oral health needs.**



## **Academy of General Dentistry's Response:**

CHICAGO, IL (Aug. 13, 2020) –The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD), which represents nearly 40,000 general dentists, recommends that patients continue routine dental care, restoration treatment plans and emergency procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure oral hygiene is maintained. Dental care is an essential component of the overall healthcare model, and dental offices are practicing enhanced safety measures to address their patient needs during this time.

“Good oral health contributes to good overall health, and any recommendations against the continuum of oral care negatively impact dental patients,” said AGD President Connie L. White, DDS, FAGD. “Dental practices follow extensive infection control measures and have enhanced those efforts in recent months. This includes sterilization efforts that destroy all forms of the coronavirus and other endemic diseases in our communities. Dental offices also follow strict safety precautions including the use of personal protective equipment and other tools that reduce risk of disease transmission.”

AGD disagrees with a recent announcement by the World Health Organization discouraging the public from seeking essential dental care during the pandemic. AGD emphasizes that patients should maintain their dental appointments for routine cleanings or conditions that cause pain. Delaying a dental visit may create further health issues and long-term problems.

“General dentists are responsible for the safety of patients, staff and themselves,” said White. “We are experts in oral health, and patients should speak with their dentist to learn more about what dentists are doing to promote and protect patient health during this pandemic. Our members follow updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and also their state dental boards, which monitor and provide direction on new guidance and safety standards.”