

Dental Emergencies

Toothache

Rinse the mouth with warm water to clean it out. Place a cold compress or ice wrapped in a cloth on the outside of the cheek. Call and go to the dentist as soon as possible. Do NOT use heat or place aspirin on the tooth or gum tissue.

Broken Tooth

Rinse the mouth with warm water to clean the area. Place a cold compress on the face to reduce swelling. Call and go to the dentist as soon as possible. If possible, bring the broken tooth fragment with you to the dentist.

Knocked-Out Tooth

If it is a baby tooth, call the dentist as soon as possible. Do NOT attempt to put a baby tooth back in the socket.

If it is a permanent tooth, rinse it gently in cool water. Do NOT scrub it or clean it with soap.

If possible, put the tooth back in the socket and hold it there with clean gauze or a wash cloth.

If the tooth cannot be put back in the socket, place the tooth in a clean glass with milk, saliva, or water. Take the tooth and go to the dentist immediately.

Bitten Lip or Tongue

Clean the area gently with a cloth and apply direct pressure to the bleeding area. If swelling is present, apply a cold compress. If bleeding does not stop, go to a hospital emergency room immediately.



Know what to do if a painful dental emergency occurs with you or your child.

Objects Wedged Between Teeth

Try to remove the object with dental floss, guiding the floss carefully to avoid cutting the gums. If using floss does not work, call the dentist. Do NOT try to remove the object with a sharp or pointed object.

Possible Fractured Jaw

Apply a cold compress to control swelling. Go immediately to the emergency room of a local hospital. Head injuries can be life threatening.