



Dental emergencies while wearing braces fall into two categories:

- 1) Direct injuries to the mouth or teeth, or
- 2) Emergencies associated with the braces.

Direct Injuries To The Mouth Or Teeth:

Following a direct injury to your mouth or teeth, you should be seen by Dr. Sullivan or your family dentist as soon as possible. Usually a radiograph of the involved tooth, or teeth, is needed to ascertain the extent of injury. If a tooth has been knocked out, it should immediately be replaced into the socket. If that is not possible, place the tooth in a milk or saline solution and get to a dentist or emergency room as soon as possible. The longer a tooth is out of the mouth, the less likely it will survive. If the tooth is severely displaced or fractured, the doctor will splint it back into place. If the braces are dislodged or displaced, we will replace or adjust them. Please call our office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment.

Emergencies Related To Braces:

From time to time during orthodontic treatment, braces will dislodge or wires will poke. If this happens, call our office as soon as possible so we can evaluate the urgency of the problem and schedule you to be seen accordingly. In the interim, the following are helpful hints to remedy some of the problems you may encounter until you can be seen in our office:

- Look carefully to identify the source of the irritation. Often an offending wire or loose brace can be gently pushed back into place with a pencil eraser tip.
- If a wire or brace is irritating, cover it with orthodontic wax and apply Orabase gel to the irritated area. Many times this will solve the problem.
- If this does not work and there is no way to see either Dr Sullivan or another dentist, carefully cut an irritating wire as a last resort. Call the office as soon as possible.
- A loose band or bracket that is attached to a wire can generally stay in place until your next appointment if it is not irritating. Please call the office for advice.
- A bent headgear or removable appliance that is not fitting well should be adjusted as soon as possible. Please call the office for advice.

After Hours Care:

Our office is generally open Monday through Thursday. We are closed for lunch from 12:00 pm until 1:30 pm. Emergency time is held open during each day so that we may schedule you as soon as possible during normal office hours. Should you have an orthodontic emergency after office hours, please call our office and an emergency number will be available for you to call.

Scheduling Appointments:

We appreciate that most people seeking orthodontic treatment have other important obligations during the day, usually involved with family, work and school. When active orthodontic treatment begins, you will be generally seen every six to eight weeks. We have found that children respond best to treatment when the longer construction appointments are scheduled early in the day. We set time aside each day for emergencies and repairs.

Because the schedule is carefully crafted, your late arrival can pose a problem. In fairness to other scheduled patients, should you arrive late, we may find it necessary to reschedule your appointment.

Rescheduling Appointments:

We ask for at least 24 hours notice to reschedule an appointment, as we have set aside time to accommodate your specific needs. Missed appointments and numerous appointment changes will inevitably result in an extension of your treatment time. Our goal in scheduling appointments is to keep your treatment progressing and on time.