Emergency Dentist in Melbourne | Core Dental Clinics

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/emergency-dentistry/

Details:

If you have a dental emergency, call 13 13 16 or your local Core Dental practice. We reserve appointments for emergency patients each day, and our team will triage your call first to check that your problem is dental and not a medical emergency. Availability on the day depends on the practice, the clinician and how urgent your problem is, so call us for current options. If you have uncontrollable bleeding, trouble breathing or swallowing, or a serious facial injury, call 000 straight away.

When should you call 000 instead of a dentist?

Call 000 immediately, or go to the nearest hospital emergency department, if you have:

uncontrollable bleeding

difficulty breathing or swallowing

facial swelling that is affecting your breathing or swallowing

a serious facial or head injury

any other life-threatening symptom

Do not wait for a dental appointment in these situations. For severe tooth pain or swelling without these signs, contact a dental practice promptly.

What counts as a dental emergency?

Dental emergencies can take several forms. Common examples we see include:

severe toothache from decay or an abscess

a chipped or broken tooth

a knocked-out or dislodged tooth

bleeding from the gums that may signal infection or injury

swelling of the face or gums

a lost filling or crown that exposes the tooth

dental trauma

in very rare cases, dislocation of the temporomandibular joint, which is the jaw joint

In all cases, prompt review by your dentist helps protect the tooth, can avoid permanent damage and may avoid the need for extensive and costly treatment later on.

What are the signs that your emergency may be medical?

Some symptoms can point to a medical problem rather than a dental one. If you have any of the following, tell us when you call so we can triage you properly:

significant difficulty swallowing

toothache

sensitivity to hot or cold in the mouth

facial swelling

difficulty opening your mouth, chewing or speaking

gum pain

bleeding from the gums

lesions on the gums or tongue

What patterns are typical of different dental emergencies?

These patterns are general guides only, and a dentist needs to examine you to find the cause.

Severe pain near the jaw, with earache or headache and difficulty opening the mouth wide: this can be a sign of an impacted wisdom tooth.

Throbbing pain that has worsened over a week or more, is worse at night and comes with sensitivity to heat: this can be a sign of an infected tooth.

A chipped tooth: this is an emergency if the tooth is also loose or bleeding.

You can read more about toothache symptoms , cracked teeth and wisdom teeth pain .

What happens when you contact us?

First, we triage the situation and check that you are not suffering a medical emergency. Once we know it is a dental emergency, we book you in at the earliest opportunity. We know toothache can be sudden and significant, which is why we reserve dedicated emergency appointments each day.

When you arrive, one of our dentists assesses the problem to work out the underlying cause of your symptoms. We then explain the provisional diagnosis and your treatment options in plain language. Options can range from simple measures, such as pain-relieving medication, anti-inflammatories or antibiotics, to more involved treatment such as tooth extraction or root canal therapy . We aim to keep you comfortable throughout any treatment you need, and we quote before treatment starts.

Where can you get emergency dental care at Core Dental?

Our practices across Melbourne reserve emergency appointments daily where possible. Call the practice nearest you or the group number on 13 13 16. Our practices are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

Practice	Phone
Southbank	(03) 8547 0780
South Melbourne	(03) 9114 7700
Caroline Springs	(03) 9363 7888
Carrum Downs	(03) 8373 1555
Epping	(03) 9401 4622
Wyndham	(03) 9749 6677
Berwick	(03) 9132 4160

Bayside	13 13 16
Glenferrie	03 7035 1506

How do payment plans and health funds apply to emergency treatment?

We give you a quote before treatment starts, so you know the cost of the care we recommend. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and any rebate depends on your own health fund cover. For larger treatment costs we offer interest-free Payright plans with fortnightly instalments over 3 to 30 months for amounts up to $20,000, subject to eligibility and approval. Terms were published as at September 2026, so please confirm current terms when you book. See our dental payment plans page.

What should you tell us when you book?

Explain your concern, your symptoms and when they started. Bring relevant medical information and a list of your current medicines, and tell us about any allergies. If a tooth has been knocked out, tell us straight away, because timing matters. A written treatment plan can help you understand the stages, the number of appointments and the payment options before you proceed.

How can children get emergency dental care?

Children can have dental emergencies too. Call us on 13 13 16 and tell us the age of your child and what has happened. Eligible children aged 0 to 17 may be able to receive care under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, and you can read more about children's dentistry at Core Dental.

What public options exist in Victoria if you cannot pay privately?

A dental emergency and an empty bank account arrive together more often than anyone likes to admit. If private treatment is not affordable right now, Victoria runs a public system, and knowing how it works is more use to you than a page that pretends the question does not come up.

The Victorian Department of Health states that public dental services are provided "through the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne (RDHM) and more than 40 integrated and registered community health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations across Victoria." So the entry point is a community dental clinic or the Royal Dental Hospital, not a hospital emergency department.

Eligibility for public dental care is defined by the department as follows:

"all children aged 0–12 years"

"young people aged 13–17 years who hold a healthcare or pensioner concession card, or who are dependants of concession card holders"

"people aged 18 years and over, who are health care or pensioner concession card holders or dependants of concession card holders"

"all children and young people in out-of-home care provided by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), up to 18 years of age (including kinship and foster care)"

"all people in youth justice custodial care"

"all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people"

"all refugees and asylum seekers."

The department also notes that it sometimes delivers public care through private clinics, under three voucher schemes: the "Victorian Emergency Dental Scheme (VEDS)", the "Victorian General Dental Scheme (VGDS)" and the "Victorian Denture Scheme (VDS)". It states that the Royal Dental Hospital and community dental clinics "have detailed information about how private dental clinicians may access these schemes", so a public clinic is the place to ask whether a voucher applies to you.

Two honest limits on what we can tell you. We cannot confirm your eligibility — that is for the public clinic to assess against the criteria above. And the department's page does not publish emergency waiting times, so neither can we; ask the clinic you contact.

Source: Victorian Department of Health, Access to Victoria's public dental care services, health.vic.gov.au (updated 7 October 2026; accessed 3 November 2026).

Who gets priority access in the public system?

Eligibility and priority are two different things in the Victorian system, and the distinction decides whether you wait.

The department lists the following as having priority access to public dental services:

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people"

"children and young people"

"people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness"

"pregnant people"

"refugees and asylum seekers"

"people registered with mental health or disability services, who have a letter of recommendation from their case manager or a special developmental school."

What priority means in practice is set out directly: people with priority access "are offered the next available appointment for general care. They are not placed on the general waiting list." Where the need is denture care, they are "offered the next available appointment for denture care or placed on the priority denture waiting list."

For everyone else, the department is equally direct: "all other people seeking routine dental or denture care need to place their name on a waiting list."

If you fall into one of the priority groups — and the mental health or disability pathway in particular is one people often do not realise applies to them — say so when you make contact, because the letter of recommendation is part of how that pathway is accessed.

Victorians can also use the Australian Government's Child Dental Benefits Schedule, which the department describes as providing "up to $1,158 in dental benefits over 2 years for children aged from 0 to 17 years" in families eligible for Medicare and receiving an eligible Australian government payment. That figure is the published amount as at November 2026 and is indexed annually, so check the current amount with Services Australia.

Frequently asked questions

What phone number should I call for a dental emergency?

Call 13 13 16 or the Core Dental practice nearest you. If your symptoms include difficulty breathing or swallowing, uncontrollable bleeding or a serious facial injury, call 000 instead.

Do you reserve emergency appointments?

Yes. We reserve appointments for emergency patients each day. Whether we can see you the same day depends on the practice, the clinician and how urgent your problem is, so please call us for current availability.

Why is it important to see a dentist quickly?

Prompt review helps protect the tooth, can limit damage and can avoid the need for extensive and costly treatment later on. A dentist can find the cause of your pain and explain your options.

What happens during an emergency appointment?

We triage your call, book you in at the earliest opportunity, and one of our dentists assesses the cause of your symptoms. We then explain the diagnosis and treatment options, and quote before treatment starts.

Is a toothache always a dental emergency?

Not always, but severe pain, swelling, or pain that keeps getting worse should be assessed promptly. If swelling affects your breathing or swallowing, call 000. Otherwise call us and we will triage your symptoms.

Am I eligible for public dental care in Victoria?

The Victorian Department of Health lists as eligible: all children aged 0 to 12; young people aged 13 to 17 who hold a healthcare or pensioner concession card or are dependants of a card holder; people aged 18 and over who hold such a card or are dependants of a holder; children and young people in out-of-home care up to 18; all people in youth justice custodial care; all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and all refugees and asylum seekers. Eligibility is assessed by the public clinic, so contact a community dental service or the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne to confirm your own position.

Where do I go for public emergency dental care?

The department states that public dental services are delivered through the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne and more than 40 integrated and registered community health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations across Victoria. Contact a community dental clinic or the Royal Dental Hospital directly.

Will I be seen straight away in the public system?

That depends on whether you have priority access, and we cannot tell you a waiting time because the department does not publish one. People with priority access are offered the next available appointment for general care rather than being placed on the general waiting list. Everyone else seeking routine dental or denture care joins a waiting list. Ask the clinic you contact what applies to your situation.

Who has priority access?

The department names Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; children and young people; people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; pregnant people; refugees and asylum seekers; and

people registered with mental health or disability services who have a letter of recommendation from their case manager or a special developmental school.

What are the Victorian dental voucher schemes?

The department sometimes delivers public care through private clinics under three schemes: the Victorian Emergency Dental Scheme, the Victorian General Dental Scheme and the Victorian Denture Scheme. It states that the Royal Dental Hospital and community dental clinics hold the detailed information on these schemes, so a public clinic is the place to ask whether one applies to you.

Where can I raise a concern about dental care I have received?

The Victorian Department of Health advises that people with concerns about the dental care they are receiving should contact the clinic which provided the care, or the Health Complaints Commissioner.

Related services and further reading

General dentistry

What to do in a dental emergency

What is a dental emergency and what should I do

What to do if a tooth is knocked out

Emergency dental care across Melbourne

Root canal therapy

General tooth extraction

Temporary filling falls out

CDBS and bulk bill dentistry for children

Dental payment plans

Core Dental at a glance

Nine Core Dental clinics across Melbourne: Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie.

Open six days a week: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

We reserve emergency appointments each day.

Interest-free payment plans, HICAPS on-site claiming and bulk billing for eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online through your practice page, or call 13 13 16
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday mornings, Sunday closed
Clinics	Find your nearest practice

Results, recovery times and potential risks vary for each individual. This information is general in nature and is intended for people over 18. Seek advice from a qualified, AHPRA-registered practitioner before proceeding.

What number do I call for emergency dental care at Core Dental?

Call 13 13 16 or the Core Dental practice nearest you. Our team triages your call to check the problem is dental. If you cannot breathe or swallow, or have uncontrollable bleeding, call 000 instead.

Does Core Dental set aside appointments for dental emergencies?

Yes. Core Dental reserves appointments for emergency patients each day where possible. Whether we can see you the same day depends on the practice, the clinician and urgency, so call 13 13 16 for current availability.

Which problems does Core Dental treat as dental emergencies?

We treat severe toothache from decay or abscess, chipped or broken teeth, knocked-out or dislodged teeth, lost fillings or crowns, gum bleeding or swelling, and dental trauma. Core Dental also assesses jaw joint problems.

What happens when I call Core Dental about a toothache?

We triage the call to confirm it is not a medical emergency, then book you in at the earliest opportunity. A Core Dental dentist assesses the cause, explains your options and quotes before treatment starts.

What are the opening hours for Core Dental emergency care?

Core Dental practices are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings, with Sunday closed. Bayside opens on Saturdays from 8.30am. Call 13 13 16 to ask about availability on the day.

Which Core Dental practices can I call for an emergency?

You can call any of our nine practices: Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie. The group number is 13 13 16, and each practice page lists its direct line.

Can Core Dental help with emergency costs?

We quote before treatment starts and offer HICAPS claiming on-site. Interest-free Payright plans cover amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, subject to eligibility and approval, as published in September 2026.

Can I book a Core Dental emergency appointment online?

For urgent pain, call 13 13 16 or your practice directly so our team can triage you and find a suitable time. For routine care you can book online through the Core Dental website.