

## **Patient Emergencies**

### **What do you do if you have an orthodontic emergency?**

### **Do you know what is considered an emergency?**

Our clinical team works diligently to ensure that your needs are met should you have the unfortunate occurrence of an orthodontic emergency. You can call our office answering machine to get the Doctor's pager number if we are not in the office, and someone will call you back promptly.

Although it is an inconvenience and should be fixed, an "o" off or a problem with appliance activation is not considered an emergency unless accompanied by discomfort or pain. Call to make an appointment for a non-emergency appointment during our regular office hours. Emergencies consist of wire poking, discomfort or pain, or a loose band. Be sure to leave a message on our answering machine if we are not here. Leave your full name, time you called, and the problem you're having. If you feel it is a severe problem you can page the doctor.

It is a TEAM effort to meet your needs, and we thank you for doing your best work to ensure a beautiful smile.

## **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why can't I chew gum while wearing braces?**

Chewing gum loosens your bands and knocks your brackets off... even that stuff they say doesn't stick to most dental work! You want your braces off when your treatment is complete but if they come off earlier from gum chewing you can make your treatment longer than necessary.

### **Why do I have to call if something comes loose or is broken?**

Repairs take longer to fix than having your wires changed or your elastics changed. If we know in advance we will have time to fix your braces and your treatment won't be slowed down. If you come in and there isn't enough time to fix it we will have to leave it off until your next appointment.

### **Why do I need to wear a retainer after my braces are off?**

Look how beautiful your teeth are since your braces are off. Retainers help keep them that way. After you have worn your retainer for a while you get to wear it only at night, so hang in there!