Woodlands Village Dentistry: Abscesses, Facial Swelling, and Same-Day Treatment

Gum Infections: When Is Gum Pain a Dental Emergency in Flagstaff?

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FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., November 13, 2026: Woodlands Village Dentistry, a general and emergency dental practice at 1120 W University Ave near Northern Arizona University, is helping South Flagstaff residents recognize when gum pain and swelling require urgent attention. The clinic encourages patients to tell the difference between minor gum irritation and an infection that needs same-day care from an emergency dentist in Flagstaff.

Why Is Woodlands Village Dentistry Releasing This Guidance Now?

Many people wait too long to treat gum infections, or they go to a hospital emergency room that cannot fix the underlying dental problem.

According to the American Dental Association, the United States sees more than 2 million emergency department visits related to dental conditions each year. The same report notes that these conditions are usually treated with dental procedures rather than antibiotics alone.

Woodlands Village Dentistry wants South Flagstaff families to know where to turn before a gum infection reaches that point.

What Signs Show That Gum Pain Has Become an Emergency?

Gum pain needs emergency dental care when it comes with swelling, pus, fever, or a persistent bad taste. The practice identifies these warning signs:

Throbbing pain that keeps a person awake at night

A raised, swollen bump on the gums that may release pus

Swelling that spreads to the cheek, jaw, or under the chin

Fever or general fatigue alongside mouth pain

Difficulty opening the mouth or chewing on one side

Woodlands Village Dentistry advises anyone with trouble breathing or swallowing to call 911 or go directly to the nearest hospital emergency room. These symptoms can signal an infection spreading into the neck.

What Causes Gum Infections and Swelling?

Most gum infections start when bacteria become trapped below the gumline. Common sources include advanced gum disease (periodontitis), food debris lodged between teeth, cracked teeth, and partially erupted wisdom teeth.

Periodontitis is a chronic bacterial infection that damages the gum tissue and bone supporting the teeth. Without treatment, periodontitis can lead to a dental abscess, which is a pocket of pus that forms in the gums or at the root of a tooth.

What Does Dr. Elliot Martich Recommend?

Dr. Elliot Martich, who leads Woodlands Village Dentistry, urges residents not to wait once they notice swelling.

"Swelling is a sign that an infection is active and spreading," said Dr. Martich. "A painkiller might calm things down for a few hours, but it won't get rid of the cause. When patients call us early, we can often treat the problem with a simpler procedure and save the tooth."

Where Can South Flagstaff Residents Find Emergency Dental Care?

Woodlands Village Dentistry offers emergency appointments at its University Avenue office, across from Harkins Theatres. Same-day visits are often available for patients who call early in the day.

The office serves patients throughout South Flagstaff, Kachina Village, Mountainaire, Munds Park, and nearby communities. NAU students, faculty, and staff can reach the practice within minutes of campus. Residents traveling from Downtown Flagstaff or along Route 66 also have a short drive.

The practice uses digital X-rays to locate infections and guide treatment decisions. Depending on the cause, treatment may include drainage, deep cleaning below the gumline, a root canal, or extraction.

Residents can learn more about avoiding common errors in the practice's guide to mistakes people make during a dental emergency. Patients recovering from treatment can review the practice's recovery and prevention tips after a dental emergency. NAU students can also visit the practice's resource on dental emergencies near Northern Arizona University.

What Are Woodlands Village Dentistry's Office Hours?

Woodlands Village Dentistry is open Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Monday by appointment.

Patients can call (928) 774-5599 or email woodlandsvillagedentistrydmd@gmail.com to request emergency dental care in Flagstaff.

About Woodlands Village Dentistry

Woodlands Village Dentistry was founded in Flagstaff, Arizona, by Dr. Bob Ruge in 1992. Dr. Elliot Martich assumed ownership of the practice in 2014. Dr. Martich earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona and his dental degree from Midwestern University. The practice provides general dentistry, dental implants, cosmetic dentistry, and emergency dental care to adults throughout Flagstaff

and northern Arizona. The office features digital X-rays and views of the San Francisco Peaks.

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