



# COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## **Q&A – Public Health Order: Health Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information – June 10, 2022**

Pursuant to the Order of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) of British Columbia entitled, “[Health Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information – June 10, 2022](#)” (the “Order”), the College will continue to collect and retain the vaccination status of all our registrants.

Below is a Q&A to assist you in better understanding the public health order and what is required of you as a registrant to comply with the order.

### **Which health professions are covered by this Order?**

- The Order applies to all registrants of health profession regulatory colleges in BC across all registration categories.

### **Does the Order apply to all College registrants, including non-practising?**

- Yes, the Order applies to all registrants in all registration classes.

### **Under the PHO Order, what are regulatory colleges required to do?**

- Under the *Public Health Act*, all individuals and organizations are required to comply with the requirements set by the Provincial Health Officer.
- The PHO Order requires the College to
  - collect and retain the vaccination status of their registrants
  - Provide aggregate information respecting vaccination status of its registrants to the PHO on request
  - for the purpose of preventing or responding to exposures or clusters or outbreaks, provide information, if available, to the PHO or medical health officer about the vaccination status of a registrant and where that registrant works or aggregate information about the location of all places where registrants work and the vaccination status of registrants who work in each of those places

### **Why do regulatory colleges have to comply with the Order?**

- The PHO has the legal authority to issue emergency preventive measures orders under the *Public Health Act*.
- CDHBC will be required to comply with the Order as long as it is in effect.

### **What is the Provincial Health Officer's jurisdiction to order registrants to prove they are vaccinated or prove they have been exempted?**

- The Provincial Health Officer's jurisdiction comes from her emergency powers under the *Public Health Act*.

**I registered with CDHBC as a labour mobility applicant from another province/territory or applied as an international applicant from another country and my vaccination verification is from out-of-province or out-of-country. What do I need to do to ensure my vaccination status is confirmed?**

- If you are vaccinated in a province in Canada, you may submit proof of vaccination provided by the government of Canada or the government of a province in Canada.
- If you have been vaccinated outside of Canada, you must provide:
  - proof in English, French, or a certified translation into English or French, whether electronic or in writing, issued by a government or a government body or by an organization that administered the vaccine for the purpose of showing proof of vaccination, which
    - (i) is in the form of an official certificate, pass, card, receipt or confirmation showing the number of doses of vaccine received,
    - (ii) is not just a QR code,
    - (iii) includes in text
      - A. your name,
      - B. the name of the government or government body or organization that administered the vaccine,
      - C. the brand name or any other information that identifies the vaccine,
      - D. the date the vaccine was administered.

**I am partially vaccinated. How will my vaccination status be recorded?**

- Registrants who are partially vaccinated will be recorded as “proof of vaccination not recorded”.
- Under the Order, the term “vaccinated” means,  
*“to have received, at least 7 days previously, all doses of a vaccine or a combination of vaccines, but not including a booster dose, as recommended by*  
*(a) the provincial health officer, with respect to vaccines approved for use in Canada by the department of the federal government responsible for regulating drugs, or*  
*(b) the World Health Organization, with respect to vaccines approved by the World Health Organization but not approved for use in Canada....”*
- Under the Order, the term “unvaccinated” means,  
*that a person does not meet the definition of “vaccinated”*

**How will my vaccination information be used?**

- The Order requires the College to collect and retain the vaccination status of its registrants.
- The College must disclose to the PHO or a medical health officer, on request, registrant information regarding vaccination status, either on an aggregate or individual basis.

**What will happen if I don't provide proof of/disclose my vaccination status to the College on request?**

- Registrants who do not provide vaccination status information to CDHBC upon request will be recorded as “proof of vaccination not provided”.

**What if I have a medical exemption from the PHO?**

- A valid exemption must be one issued by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO). If you receive a medical exemption from the PHO, you will need to provide proof of the medical exemption to CDHBC.

### **I have questions/concerns about the Order and/or its requirements. Who can I contact about this?**

- The Provincial Health Officer issues orders and colleges are legally required to comply with their requirements.
- For **members of the public** with questions/concerns about rationale for the order, the assessment of risk to the public, the legality of the order, constitutional challenges, etc.:
  - **Patient and Client Relations**  
Victoria: 250 952-1891  
Toll Free within BC: 1 833 552-1891  
Email: [HLTH.Health@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Health@gov.bc.ca)  
Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/health/ministry-contacts>
  - For **registrants** with questions/concerns about rationale for the order, the assessment of risk to the public, the legality of the order, constitutional challenges, etc.:
    - Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street  
PO Box 9648 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9P4  
Fax: (250) 952-1570  
Email: [ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca)

### **Which COVID-19 vaccines are accepted for proof of vaccination?**

- Any COVID-19 vaccine that is authorized for use by Health Canada is acceptable for complying with the Order. As of June 10, 2022, six vaccines have been approved for use by Health Canada, five of which are available in BC, including a single dose vaccine. The BC Centre for Disease Control provides information on the different vaccines currently approved in Canada: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/vaccines-for-covid-19>
- If you would prefer to get a non-mRNA vaccine, you can request the [Novavax vaccine](#). To get the Novavax vaccine, [Register with the Get Vaccinated system](#), then call 1-833-838-2323 to be put on the non-mRNA waiting list. Your local health authority will contact you to book an appointment. For more information, visit: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/gov/covid-19/vaccine/register>

### **What are the responsibilities of regulated health professionals to protect themselves and others from COVID-19?**

- To protect yourself, your clients, and your colleagues from COVID-19:
  - Get vaccinated unless you are eligible for a medical exemption
  - Follow the infection prevention and control guidelines provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control and the [IPAC & OHC Guidance Document](#).
  - Always respond to patient/client questions and concerns about COVID-19 immunization or related health issues in line with:
    - your scope of practice
    - provincial public health guidance
    - accepted science and best practices