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The Provincial Health Officer established three orders in order to expand the human resource testing capacity for the COVID-19 virus in BC by enabling a range of health professionals, who are not typically authorized, to conduct COVID-19 testing via nasopharyngeal swabs and mouth rinses.

These orders cover physical therapists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, **dental hygienists**, dietitians, audiologists, and pharmacists who are employees of a regional HA, PHSA or FNHA, speech language pathologists and midwives, and BC Emergency Health Services Community Paramedics.

Performance of nasal or throat swabs involves performing the restricted activities of putting an instrument, device, hand or finger beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow or beyond the pharynx. This restricted activity is not held by dental hygienists in BC; however, this order temporarily allows registrants to provide this restricted activity for the sole purpose of a COVID-19 swab test.

Information related to the conditions associated with this order including training and testing requirements set out by individual health authorities can be found within [the order](#). This order is in place for the duration of the declared COVID-19 public health emergency, until the time it is repealed by the Provincial Health Officer and is **not a permanent scope of practice change**.

PLEASE NOTE: The ability to perform this restricted activity **ONLY APPLIES** to registrants who are employed by a health authority as outlined above, have received the properly education and training and is performing the activity for the sole purpose of providing a COVID-19 screening test. Registrants are **NOT** permitted to perform this restricted activity in any other circumstance.

Registrants who engage in COVID-19 testing are expected to continue to uphold the Practice Standards and Code of Ethics normally expected of dental hygienists in BC.

Any information regarding employment for the purposes of COVID-19 testing will be provided through the regional health authorities, the PHSA or FNHA.