



COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Suite 300, 388 Harbour Road
Victoria, British Columbia V9A 3S1
WWW.CDHBC.COM

Phone: (250) 383-4101
Fax: (250) 383-4144
Toll-free: (800) 778-8277 (B.C. only)

Provincial Health Officer Order RE: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Professionals October 15, 2021

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has issued an order requiring regulated health professionals who are employed, contracted or funded to provide health care services by provincially funded organizations, including health authorities and provincial mental health facilities, to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 26, 2021.

You can read the order at the link below:

- [**HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY \(HEALTH CARE AND OTHER SERVICES\) COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS INFORMATION AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES – OCTOBER 14, 2021**](#)

At this time, the order does not apply to health professionals, including dental hygienists, who provide care in a private practice setting. However, the order also gives formal notice that other regulated health professionals, categories still to be determined by the PHO, can expect to receive a similar order stating that mandatory vaccination will also apply to their practice. This will include some individuals in private practice. Section L states:

“TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with further direction from me, health professionals to be determined by me and their staff, not otherwise required to be vaccinated under the Residential Care COVID-19 Preventive Measures Order or this Order, will be required to be vaccinated by a date to be determined by me, in order to provide health care or services in the Province.”

We recognize that the vast majority of registrants are already taking the responsibility to help eliminate COVID-19 in our communities by getting vaccinated themselves and diligently following COVID-19 prevention practices at work.

To quote from the Order: “the public health and health care systems are currently experiencing severe stress, and are stretched beyond capacity in their efforts to prevent and respond to illness resulting from the transmission of COVID-19 in the population.” It goes on to say that “an unvaccinated person who provides health care or services in a hospital or community setting, puts patients, residents, clients and other persons who provide health care or services at risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2, and constitutes a health hazard under the Public Health Act.”

CDHBC stands with the other BC health regulators in supporting the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Health. Compliance with all applicable PHO orders, directives and recommendations is an expectation of every registrant of CDHBC. We continue to strongly encourage all registrants and every eligible British Columbian to get vaccinated: this is the best way to protect clients against this virus and preserve the ability to safely deliver health services. When you get vaccinated, you are not only protecting yourself against COVID-19, but also everyone around you. If you are employed by a health authority or any other employer/funder listed in this order, any questions are best directed to your employer.

For registrants not covered by this PHO order, the College is committed to keeping registrants informed of any future COVID-19 vaccination requirements. We will provide updates as we receive more information.