



COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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UPDATE MARCH 25, 2021: Temporary Scope of Practice Expansion for the COVID-19 Immunization Campaign

Dear Registrants,

Please be advised that the Provincial Health Officer's Order to allow dental hygienists to perform activities related to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine that was previously issued on March 14, 2021 has been **replaced with a subsequent Order dated March 24, 2021**. The [current Order](#), now specifies **two** mandatory education and training requirements for dental hygienists which are as follows:

- Training Requirement 'B': In-person education and clinical lab training to perform intramuscular injections as per the BC CDC's COVID-19 Immunization Skills Checklist
- Training Requirement 'C1': BC CDC's COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Health Professionals

Please note that the BC CDC's 15-hour Immunization Competency Course for Pharmacists and Other Health Professionals which was required in the last Order has been replaced with a new 3-hour course: BC CDC's COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Professionals. This new condensed course was specifically developed to address the need for expedited immunization competency education to equip new immunizers to administer the COVID-19 vaccines in a timely manner.

The overview for the COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Health Professionals indicates that individuals who have already completed the full 15-hour Immunization Competency Course and the BC CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine webinars are **not** required to complete the new 3-hour course. If you are interested in participating in the immunization campaign, there are links to access the training requirements available in the current Order.

The College has received questions from registrants asking if the mandatory education and training activities will be eligible for continuing competency (CC) credit. The overarching principles that apply to CC credit eligibility identify that activities "must be evidence-based and contribute to scientific, practical, professional or ethical aspects of the registrant's **dental hygiene practice**" ([QAP Information Guide](#), pg. 72). Since the current circumstances relate to an expanded scope of practice that is temporary in nature, eligibility for CC credits will be reviewed by the Quality Assurance Committee and a decision is expected shortly. The College will notify registrants of the outcome as soon as this has been determined, so please stay tuned.

As a reminder from the provincial government, health professionals who are interested in participating in the immunization campaign are able to register their interest online through the COVID-19 Emergency Health Provider Registry (EHPR). This registry is a provincial resource which health authorities can access as needed to connect with health professionals who have indicated their ability to deploy during the public health emergency. This may include non-immunization (e.g., administrative) activities within the immunization campaign and/or other health service roles.

You can register online with the COVID-19 EHPR by visiting <https://forms.hlth.gov.bc.ca/registry-covid-19>. If you have questions about this process, please refer to the FAQs linked to the online registration form or email healthlinkbc@gov.bc.ca for assistance. **Be sure to include "COVID EHPR" in the subject line.**