

# Continuing Competency Credit Eligibility for COVID-19 Immunization Training

An Order of the Provincial Health Officer was first issued on February 23, 2021 outlining criteria for regulated and unregulated health professionals, including dental hygienists, to become involved in the COVID-19 immunization campaign if immunization activities are not ordinarily a part of their authorized restricted activities. This Order was replaced by a second Order that was issued on March 14, 2021, and by [a third Order that was issued on March 24, 2021](#). The context for all three Orders is for activities to be performed as part of an immunization program approved by a Medical Health Officer overseeing a geographic area. This is intended to be a **temporary** provision until the current public health emergency is declared over.

While the practice context for registrants has remained consistent between the three temporary Orders, the training requirements have been streamlined. This is summarized as follows:

Education and Training Requirement	Estimated Time to Complete	Feb 23/21 Order	Mar 14/21 Order	Mar 24/21 Order
Elsevier Clinical Skills – Intramuscular Injections (Ambulatory)	25 min	√		
‘C1’ (ORIGINAL): BC CDC’s Immunization Competency Course for Pharmacists and Other Health Professionals (PHSA #20404)	15 hours	√	√	
‘C1’ (NEW): COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Professionals (PHSA #25286)	3 hours			√
BC CDC’s COVID-19 Immunization Webinar Series (PHSA #'s 24765, 24766, 25245)	1 hour (total)	√	√	
BC CDC’s Communicable Disease Control Manual: Anaphylaxis Management in Non-Hospital Settings	1 hour	√		
Dry Ice Handling Safety Webinar (PHSA #24530)	20 min	√		
Vaccine Storage and Handling Webinar (PHSA #19652)	30 min	√		
Immunization Communication Module (PHSA #19653)	90 min	√		

The College has received questions from registrants asking if the education and training activities are eligible for continuing competency (CC) credit. Upon review, the Quality Assurance Committee has determined that these training requirements are eligible for credit within the following parameters:

- Hour-for-hour credit may be claimed, up to a maximum of 10 credits
- Credit may only be claimed for these training requirements if they are taken while the temporary Order is in effect

The rationale for the maximum of 10 credits relates to one of the overarching principles that applies to CC credit eligibility. This principle states 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). The Quality Assurance Committee felt that the overall focus of these training requirements is specific to the current COVID-19 immunization campaign. However, the Committee also recognized that there are components that will continue to be of value to dental hygiene practice even after this temporary measure concludes (for example, knowledge of immunology, management of anaphylaxis, communications strategies).

Of additional note, the Orders also identify a training requirement ‘B’ as a clinical evaluation of a registrant’s ability to perform intramuscular injections as per the [BC CDC’s COVID-19 Immunization Skills Checklist](#). The College’s understanding is that this requirement will be undertaken as a final verification of clinical competence by one of the Health Authorities as part of their orientation process. As it is understood to be an evaluation check point rather than a learning activity, it has not been deemed eligible for CC credit.