



COVID-19 Update for CDHA Members **April 22, 2021**

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Email us: alerts@cdha.ca

Dear member,

Health Canada update on AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccines

In the past week, Health Canada provided a product label update on [AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD](#) vaccines and updated the summary safety review [document](#). Note that its use is no longer age restricted and the risk of developing blood clots in combination with low platelets count is estimated to be very rare. The condition known as vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) is estimated to be 4 in 1 million people. "The risk of a woman between the ages of 15 and 45 developing any sort of blood clot is 1 in 3,300. If they take birth control, the odds are 1 in 1,600." [Dr. Supriya Sharma, Health Canada's chief medical adviser.](#)

Reported side effects following COVID-19 vaccination in Canada

Want to know more about the reported side effects following the administration of COVID-19 vaccines in Canada? Click [here](#). Health Canada updates the page weekly.

CDC suggests that approved vaccines protect against certain variants

Preliminary evidence released by the [CDC](#) suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to develop both symptomatic and asymptomatic infections, and along with the potential for reduced viral load in vaccinated people, will aid in reducing the risk of transmission. Furthermore, the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the US may provide some protection against a variety of strains, including B.1.1.7 (originally identified in the United Kingdom). However, reduced efficacy has been observed for the B.1.351 strain (originally identified in South Africa).

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES



Government of Canada search tool for authorized medical devices

Want to know if a new product you are contemplating using in your workplace is approved for sale or import in Canada? Input the name of the product (e.g. mask, visor, or product name...) into the Government of Canada's [search tool](#) and see if it received proper approval.

Ontario members

Check your emails for communication from CDHO on the change made to Directive 2 on April 20 by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health. CDHO has clarified with the Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) and confirmed that services performed by dental hygienists in the community are not impacted by the changes to Directive 2. A reminder that all dental practices are required to adhere to RCDSO's [COVID-19: Managing Infection Risks During In-Person Dental Care](#), which closely align with CDHO guidance, as they relate to HVAC assessments and fallow time, use of gowns and N95 masks, and fully walled and doored operatories.

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*Please be well and take care of yourselves in this difficult time.
Everyone can do their part to slow COVID-19.*