



COVID-19 Update for CDHA Members February 25, 2021

CDHA is Here to Help

Read our latest updates: www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts

Email us: alerts@cdha.ca

Dear member,

Professional Liability Coverage for Dental Hygienists Administering COVID-19 Vaccines

BMS as confirmed coverage through your CDHA Professional Liability Insurance policy.

Below is BMS's communication to that effect:

As legislation is changing and some professions will be considered for delivering coronavirus vaccinations, your Professional Liability Policy coverage still applies according to its terms, conditions and exclusions.

As with professional practice generally, the insured is expected to work in accordance with the provincial/territorial government guidelines and regulations and the best practice guidelines and standards set by their regulatory body. The circumstances of each claim are unique, so it's difficult to provide a broad answer to coverage questions based on hypothetical situations. However, your Professional Liability Policy continues to offer you the same coverages.

Public Health Agency of Canada COVID-19 Toolkit

The Public Health Agency of Canada has released the [COVID-19 Vaccination Information Resources Tool Kit for Health Care Providers](#). The toolkit provides information on COVID-19, currently approved vaccines and their safety, links to provincial and territorial resources, and more.

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

1122 Wellington St W, Ottawa, ON K1Y 2Y7 Tel. 613-224-5515 Fax 613-224-7283
info@cdha.ca Toll Free 1-800-267-5235 www.cdha.ca



COVID-19 variants

News of the COVID-19 virus mutating and producing variants has been causing concern since December. While there is still much to be learned, here is what we know so far. There are 3 main variants: UK, South Africa and Brazil. All three have undergone changes to their spike protein - the part of the virus which attaches to human cells. As a result, they appear to be more infectious. For more detailed information on each one, please go to the [CDC's About Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19](#) page and listen to the WHO's Science in 5 video on [Variants and Vaccines](#). Research is being done to determine the effectiveness of the currently approved vaccines against these variants.

Federal vaccination rollout guidelines

The Public Health Agency of Canada updated its [Vaccines and treatments for COVID-19: Vaccine rollout](#) guidance document. It recommends that *“health care workers who have direct contact with patients, including those who work in health care settings”* be included in Stage 1 of the vaccine rollout. CDHA has confirmed this includes members of the dental hygiene profession. However, it should be noted that provinces and territories, not the federal government, have the legislative authority to determine what is or is not considered essential in their jurisdiction, determine which agency will be responsible for the coordination of the vaccination program and establish their own vaccination roll out priorities and schedule.

It is important to remember that current COVID restrictions will not be lifted for individuals that are vaccinated. Many factors will have to be taken into consideration including the level of community immunization, the number of COVID-19 cases in your province/region and the health care system capacity to name a few. Continue to practice safe physical distancing, wash your hands regularly, wear a mask, stay home if you have symptoms of illness and get tested. Furthermore, continue using strict infection prevention and control measures in the office; do not let your guard down.

COVID-19 vaccination tracker

Are you interested in tracking how Canada's vaccine rollout is progressing across the country? You may want to follow these sites:

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[COVID-19 Tracker Canada](#)

[CTV COVID Vaccine Tracker](#)

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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.*

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