



## COVID-19 Update for CDHA Members January 14, 2021

### CDHA is Here to Help

Read our latest updates: [www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts](http://www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts)

Email us: [alerts@cdha.ca](mailto:alerts@cdha.ca)

Dear member,

#### Results of Poll on Vaccines:

Thank you to the 4,689 dental hygienists that took the time to answer our quick poll on vaccines. Here is a snapshot of the results:

Yes, I have already received the vaccine	less than 1%
Yes, I will take immediately	54%
Yes, I will take within the year	18%
Not sure	18%
No	9%

How do we compare with the results of Health Canada's recent survey conducted with Canadians and healthcare providers regarding their intent to get vaccinated?

	General population	Health care providers
Will get vaccinated right away	31-54%	38%
Will wait a bit before getting vaccinated	33-47%	39%



When we asked which concerns members had regarding COVID-19 vaccines, here are the top 5:

Worry about possible side effects	78%
Worry about long-term efficacy	62%
Not enough confidence in vaccine development process	56%
Not enough information on efficacy of each vaccine	56%
Not enough information on different vaccines	51%

In addition to the top 5, a large proportion of respondents are looking for information on the potential contraindications associated with each vaccine.

Based on your responses, resources will be developed to ensure you have evidence-based information about vaccine safety and efficacy.

### **Vaccines 101 Resources**

As oral health professionals, we must be alert to the fact that we are viewed as reliable sources of information by the public. In consideration of this responsibility, we should avoid statements that promote fear, contradict public health recommendations, or are otherwise not in line with scientific evidence, professional standards, and provincial regulatory guidelines.

We invite you to consult Health Canada's vaccine overview [infographic](#) to familiarize yourself with the process of vaccine development and approval.

To date, the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna vaccine, have been approved for use by Health Canada.

- Learn more about the [Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine](#)
- Learn more about the [Moderna vaccine](#)



## **Dental hygienists included in federal guidance to provinces/territories on essential services**

The Guidance on Essential Services and Function in Canada during the COVID-19 Pandemic was developed to help provinces/territories, Indigenous communities, and municipalities protect their communities while maintaining the reliable operation of critical infrastructure services and functions to ensure the health, safety, and economic well-being of the population.

Annex A in this document lists essential services in various sectors, including health. Although dental hygienists were not specifically identified in their [list of essential caregivers](#), Public Safety Canada confirmed with CDHA that dental hygienists **would currently fall under the essential health sector as caregivers**. Provinces and territories have the legislative authority to determine what is or is not considered essential in their jurisdiction.

## **Priority access to Vaccine**

CDHA is very supportive of vaccine priority to long-term care, but we want to ensure that when vaccines are available to other primary health care professionals, that dental hygienists are included. As all members are aware, oral health is essential to overall health. Essential dental hygiene care eliminates infection and disease of the mouth and associated structures. These interventions also contribute to overall health, well-being, and quality of life. Dental hygienists have done an excellent job adhering to strict IPAC protocols to ensure the safety of themselves and their clients during this pandemic. However, given that dental hygienists are one of the few health professions that work in close proximity to an unmasked oral cavity, they should have early access to the COVID-19 vaccine, along with other primary healthcare professionals. Effective IPAC protocols minimize the risk of COVID-19, but do not eliminate it.

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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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