

How to Guide:

For Dental Hygienists Preparing to Provide the COVID-19 Vaccination

March 29th, 2021



On February 23, 2021, the Provincial Health Officer provided notice that, with proper education and training, dental hygienists and other health care professionals were authorized to perform Immunization Activities to assist with the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine rollout in B.C.

The following information will assist you with determining the next steps.

Step 1: Register Your interest in Deployment

Health professionals interested in participating in the immunization campaign can register their interest online through the COVID-19 Emergency Health Provider Registry (EHPR). The COVID-19 EHPR is a local resource that health authorities can access as needed to connect with health professionals who have indicated their ability to deploy during a public health emergency.

Register online at <https://forms.hlth.gov.bc.ca/registry-covid-19>.



The screenshot shows the 'Ministry of Health - Forms' website. The navigation bar includes links for 'Home', 'Registry COVID-19 Form', 'Registry COVID-19 FAQ', and 'Log in'. The main heading is 'Create Health Provider'. Below the heading, there is a note: 'Please refer to the [FAQs](#) when completing this form. If you encounter problems completing/submitting this form, please email healthlinkbc@gov.bc.ca.' The form contains a radio button question: 'I am a new Registrant for COVID-19 emergency response. *' with 'No' selected. Below this are input fields for 'Registrant Name *' (containing 'First Name Last Name') and 'Email *' (containing 'name@example.com'). A yellow arrow points from the URL in the text above to the 'Registry COVID-19 Form' link in the navigation bar.

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.**

Health authorities may also be posting specific positions or expressions of interest in the future. We encourage you to monitor your regional health authority website so you can express your interest there as well.

Step 2: Start Reviewing the Required Training and Education

The Provincial Health Officer's Order to allow dental hygienists to perform activities related to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine 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*, indicated 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 addresses the need for expedited immunization competency education to equip new immunizers to administer the COVID-19 vaccines promptly.

*The overview for the COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Health Professionals indicates that individuals who have already completed the entire 15-hour Immunization Competency Course and the BC CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine webinars are **not** required to complete the new 3-hour course.*

The current March 24, 2021 [Order](#), contains information about the required education and training. **Read this entire document**. Page 11, column B outlines the authorized immunization activities that will be permitted, and **column E outlines the mandatory training**.

Column A: Authorized Health Professional	Column B: Authorized Immunization Activities:	Column C: Services specifically <u>excluded from the authorized Immunization Activity:</u>	Column D: Specific Limits:	Column E: Mandatory Training (refer to the letters in Appendix B, Column A for information on the training resource).
Dental Hygienist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; b. Administering an injection of a COVID-19 vaccine; c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent. 	Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	B, C1

Step 3: Identify the Training Activities Required & Get a Head Start

On page 18, you will find **Appendix B: Training Materials**, which outlines the specific training or education required. Training B is only available to those members who have been hired by a health authority to deploy. Training C1 -**COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Professionals**, is available online and is free.

Register

[Course Overview](#)

[Contact Info](#)

BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Health Professionals

eLearning Course 3 hours Clinical

While the complete BCCDC Immunization Competency Course is recommended for all new vaccine providers, it is recognized that in the context of the global pandemic, the need for an expedited immunization competency education process is essential to administer the COVID-19 vaccine in a timely manner (i.e., for those who will be providing COVID-19 vaccines only). As such, this course has been developed to equip new immunizers with the knowledge necessary to provide safe and effective COVID-19 Immunization based on the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) immunization competencies and is specific to COVID-19 vaccination ONLY.

Access Dates	No end date
Target Audience	New immunizers involved in the COVID-19 Immunization Program

British Columbia Dental Hygienists' Association

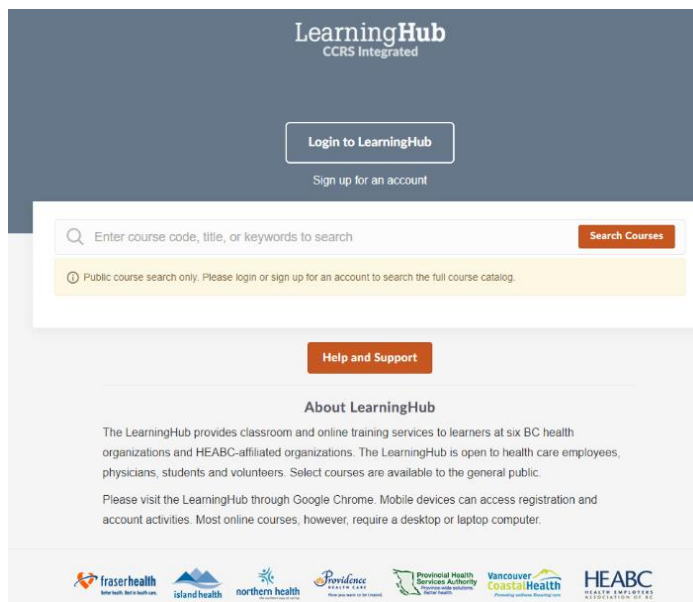
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Taking the online course will require you to create a FREE LearningHub account.

<https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Learner/Home>



The resources that dental hygienists are required to complete are those indicated in **red** font below.

Training	Resources	Link to Materials	Notes to assist
A	Elsevier Clinical Skills – Intramuscular Injections (*eliminate pediatric content and test)	Course content equivalent to: https://pointofcare.elsevierperformancemanager.com/	Dental hygienists are not required to take this course.
B	In-person education and clinical lab training to perform intramuscular injections as per the B.C. Centre for Disease Control’s – Immunization Skills Checklist	http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Immunization/Vaccine%20Info/IMMUNIZATION_SKILLS_CHECKLIST.pdf This link contains a checklist indicating the COVID-19 Immunization Skills Checklist. Be familiar with this information.	Information on how to access the in-person and clinical lab training will be communicated to you if you are hired by a health authority to provide vaccinations. BCDHA will update this information if we receive more information about the in-person training requirements from the individual Health Authorities.

<p>C1 (includes materials from training outlined in items A, D, E, G, H of this column specific to COVID-19 immunizations only)</p>	<p>COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Professionals This course includes the B.C. Centre for Disease Control’s – Informed Consent for Immunization component</p>	<p>https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/25286/</p>	<p>BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Non-Nursing Health Professionals</p> <p><small>Learning Course 3 hours Clinical</small></p> <p><small>While the complete BCCDC Immunization Competency Course is recommended for all new vaccine providers, it is recognized that in the context of the global pandemic, the need for an expedited immunization competency education process is essential to administer the COVID-19 vaccine in a timely manner (i.e., for those who will be providing COVID-19 vaccines only). As such, this course has been developed to equip new immunizers with the knowledge necessary to provide safe and effective COVID-19 immunization based on the Public Health Agency of Canada’s (PHAC) immunization competencies and is specific to COVID-19 vaccination ONLY.</small></p> <p>Anticipated time to complete: 3 hours. At the completion of this course there is an online exam. There is no time limit to complete the exam. You can start and stop and return to complete it at a later time. You are required to pass the test. You may attempt the test as many times as you need until you achieve a passing grade. Once you submit your answers you will be notified of the questions that you answered that are not correct. We recommend that you note the number of each question that you got wrong and the answer that you gave. This approach will assist you with returning to the exam and changing only the incorrect answers.</p>
<p>C2</p>	<p>BC Centre for Disease Control’s COVID 19 Immunization Competency Course for Nurses (RNs, RPNs, LPNs)</p>	<p>https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/24913/</p>	<p>Dental hygienists are not required to take this course as it is for nurses only.</p>
<p>D</p>	<p>BCCDC COVID 19 Immunization Webinars (series of 3 webinars)</p>	<p>https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/24764/curriculum-bccdc-covid-19-immunization-webinars</p>	<p>Dental hygienists are not required to take this course as it is for nurses only.</p>
<p>E</p>	<p>Anaphylaxis Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses Adult Pediatric</p>	<p>https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/19708/anaphylaxis-initial-emergency-treatment-by-nurses-adult-pediatric</p>	<p>Dental hygienists are not required to complete this.</p>

F	Dry Ice Handling Safety Training course	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/24530/dry-ice-handling-safety-training	Dental hygienists are not required to complete this.
G	Vaccine Storage and Handling course	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/19652/vaccine-storage-and-handling	Dental hygienists are not required to complete this.
H	Immunization Communication Module	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/19653/immunization-communication-module	Dental hygienists are not required to complete this.

Will the COVID-19 immunization education and training activities be eligible for Continuing competency (CC) credit?

In a March 25, 2021 email communication from the CDHBC, this was the response, “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.”