

## **BCDA Statement**

**September 24, 2021** 

## Position on COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Workers, Including Oral Health Care Professionals

The British Columbia Dental Association (BCDA) Board of Directors have agreed, after careful deliberation, to stand in strong support with the Canadian Dental Association, BC Centre for Disease Control, and Doctors of BC in the position that COVID-19 vaccines are science-based, safe, effective and have been thoroughly investigated; and support the call to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for BC health care workers, **including oral health care professionals**.

Earlier this year, **at the request of members**, BCDA successfully advocated for dentists to receive the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the general public, and to also become vaccine administrators.

This reflects our commitment, as health care providers, to protect the health of patients as well as dentists and staff. We have seen first-hand what vaccines have done to reduce the severity of illness and the number of cases. While **our recommendation is non-binding**, with the highly transmissible Delta variant now being the dominant strain in BC, BCDA strongly recommends and encourages our members and their staff to get vaccinated.

The BC Dental Association is the voice of BC dentists. We advocate for our members and promote access to dental care for all British Columbians.

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