



**British
Columbia
Dental
Association**

400 1765 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver BC Canada V6J 5C6

T 604 736 7202 I 888 396 9888
F 604 736 7588 E bcda@bcdental.org

www.bcdental.org

January 23, 2021

Honourable John Horgan,
Office of the Premier
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W 9E1, Canada

Email: Premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Horgan,

BC dentists support BC's efforts in the fight to end the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome the province's immunization program and have expressed to Ministry of Health staff that dentists are trained and willing to be part of the province's COVID-19 immunization roll out.

The dental community supports the high priority given to clinically vulnerable patients and those health care workers and others involved in their care with respect to COVID-19 immunization.

On behalf our members, the dentists of BC, and the dental professionals they work with, we are extremely disappointed that dental professionals are not included in Phase 2 immunizations along with our medical colleagues.

Dentistry is an essential service. More importantly, dental care, including aerosol-generating dental procedures are provided to patients who, cannot wear a mask *during treatment*.

BC dentists continue to do everything they can to ensure dental offices are safe for patients and staff. Early access to vaccines will ensure continued access to urgent and emergency dental care.

Other agencies such as the American CDC have included dentists and dental workers in Stage 2 along with physicians and medical specialists not directly involved in providing care to COVID-19 patients. More recently, Ontario has included dentistry in its second stage based on the following criteria:

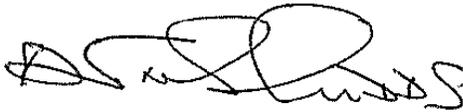
- Dentists generally provide direct in-person patient care
- Generally, there is a higher level of urgency and criticality, including services that cannot be delayed or deferred
- Generally, there is a higher likelihood of engaging in higher exposure risk procedures (e.g. aerosol-generating medical procedures, aerosol-generating dental procedures)
- Dentists are unable to work virtually or remotely

These factors similarly apply to dentistry in BC, strongly indicating that dental professionals should be given the same priority to vaccines as their Ontario counterparts.

On behalf of BC dentists, I strongly urge your government to include dental professionals in Stage 2 of the COVID-19 Immunization Program alongside GP physicians and medical specialists.

If you wish to discuss this further please reach out to our Executive Director, Ms. Jocelyn Johnston at jmjohnston@bcdental.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Anthony Nadolski', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Anthony Nadolski,
President
British Columbia Dental Association

Copy: Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Penny Ballem, Executive Lead, BC Immunization Response Team