

BC Dental Association Strongly Urges BC Government to Move Dental Professionals to Phase 2 Vaccine Rollout

Yesterday, Premier John Horgan; Adrian Dix, Minister of Health; Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer; and Dr. Penny Ballem, Executive Lead for BC's immunization efforts unveiled BC's [COVID-19 vaccination roll-out plan](#).

Today, the BC Dental Association sent a [letter to Premier John Horgan](#), strongly urging the BC government to move dental professionals into Phase 2 of the vaccine rollout as the [Government of Ontario](#) and the American Centers for Disease Control have done.

BCDA understands and supports the need for a phased immunization approach, but strongly believe dental professionals should be moved to Phase 2 for these reasons:

- Dental care is an essential service.
- Dental professionals are the only health care providers who provide aerosol-generating dental procedures to *patients who cannot wear a mask during treatment*.
- Dental treatment is provided predominantly outside a hospital setting.
- BC dentists continue to ensure dental offices are safe for patients and staff; earlier access to vaccines will ensure uninterrupted access to urgent and emergency dental treatment for our most vulnerable patients.

BCDA strongly recommends that dental professionals be included in Phase 2 vaccine distribution. We need to ensure dental professionals and our most at-risk patients in all BC communities remain safe in our ongoing commitment to provide dental care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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