



1000 N. Rand Rd., Suite 214, Wauconda, IL 60084 www.idha.net

12/17/2020

Dear Governor JB Pritzker,

I write to you today as the President of the Illinois Dental Hygienists' Association, representing **9035** licensed dental hygienists in Illinois. In March of 2020, you issued a Disaster Proclamation in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. We request that you enlist the assistance of licensed dental hygienists to participate in the mass vaccination efforts, per the IDPH SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Guide, which states:

*To accomplish the goal of providing SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 vaccines to enough of the population to elicit herd immunity, as supply of vaccines permits, the State of Illinois will:*

- *Ensure expanded scopes of practice for health care licenses, as necessary to allow certain medical professionals the opportunity to assist in the mass vaccination campaign, when working under the authority of the local public health jurisdiction or a health care entity.*

One example of expanded scope of practice would be to allow medical doctors to provide supervision of dental hygienists.

Additionally, the *Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act* states, "A licensed dentist or licensed dental hygienist that has completed necessary prescribed training shall be allowed to administer any vaccine approved for patients during the period of declared public health emergency and under the direction of and in co-ordination with the Federal or State Authority".

This is also reflected within the Illinois Dental Practice Act language under the definition for "dental responders":  
(225 ILCS 25/54.2) *Dental responders. A dentist or dental hygienist who is a dental responder is deemed to be acting within the bounds of his or her license when providing disaster immunizations, mobile and humanitarian care during a declared, local, State, or national emergency. (Source: P.A. 99-25. Eff. 1-1-16)*

Emergency proclamations allowing dental hygienists to assist in the vaccination campaign have already been drawn in New York<sup>1</sup> and Connecticut<sup>2</sup>. Dental hygienists are trained in injection techniques. With very little additional training, dental hygienists could provide vaccinations as part of this massive effort.

We request that the Governor issue an executive order to widen the scope of practice to allow dental hygienists to administer vaccines under the supervision of a medical doctor, in order to participate in the mass vaccination effort. Illinois licensed dental hygienists are ready to help end this pandemic through the Illinois Statewide Vaccination Plan. The Illinois Dental Hygienists' Association looks forward to your response. I may be reached at the email or phone number below.

Sincerely,

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1. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20282-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
2. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/20201207-DPH-Order-Expanding-Authorized-Professions-to-Administer-Vaccines.pdf>

cc. Dr. N. Ezike