

**Executive Office**

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S-308, Sacramento, CA 95834  
P (800) 952-5210 | [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov)



## **Order Waiving Restrictions on Registered Dental Hygienists Relating to Administering COVID-19 Vaccines**

On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a [State of Emergency](#) to exist in California as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization as a result of a broader spread of COVID-19.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order [N-39-20](#), during the State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs may waive any statutory or regulatory professional licensing requirements and amend scopes of practice pertaining to individuals licensed pursuant to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, including registered dental hygienists.

Accordingly, the Director waives Business and Professions Code sections 1908, 1909, 1910, 1914, and 2052, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 1085 and 1088, to the extent those provisions prohibit registered dental hygienists from administering COVID-19 vaccines that are approved or authorized by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to persons 16 years of age or older and, in cases involving a severe allergic reaction, epinephrine or diphenhydramine by injection, subject to the following conditions:

- The registered dental hygienist administers the subject vaccine, epinephrine, or diphenhydramine, as applicable, under the direct supervision of a dentist, as specified in Business and Professions Code section 1902, or under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon;
- The registered dental hygienist's supervisor must be physically present at the site of the administration and while the vaccine, epinephrine, or diphenhydramine is administered;
- The registered dental hygienist's supervisor is authorized to independently initiate and administer the subject COVID-19 vaccine;
- The registered dental hygienist successfully completes at least six hours of a practical training program that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and includes hands-on injection technique, the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines, and an assessment of the registered dental hygienist's injection technique;

**Order Waiving Restrictions on Registered Dental Hygienists Relating to Administering  
COVID-19 Vaccines  
Page 2**

- The registered dental hygienist successfully completes the required COVID-19 training programs prescribed by the California Department of Public Health at the following website:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/COVIDTraining-Non-Traditional.aspx>;
- The supervising dentist or physician and surgeon complies with all applicable federal and state recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including providing documentation to the patient's primary care provider, as applicable, and enters information in the appropriate immunization information system designated by the immunization branch of the State Department of Public Health; and,
- The subject vaccine is administered in accordance with any applicable FDA emergency use authorization or license.

Registered dental hygienists acting within the scope of this Order may administer to persons 16 years of age or older any COVID-19 vaccines that are approved or authorized by the FDA, as specified, and may also administer epinephrine or diphenhydramine by injection for the treatment of a severe allergic reaction.

This order is effective immediately but may be amended as circumstances require.

Dated: February 11, 2021

**Signature on File**

---

Kimberly Kirchmeyer  
Director