

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The Dental Council has received a significant number of queries from the profession concerning the national vaccination programme against COVID-19. The HSE are managing the population vaccination programme and the Dental Council does not have a direct role in either the process for ensuring the dental team is vaccinated or in authorising dental professions to administer the vaccine. The council would like to assure the public and the dental profession that it will assist the national vaccination programme in any way it can.

Becoming Vaccinators

A number of dentists have contacted the Dental Council to express an interest in becoming part of the team administering the vaccinations, and the Dental Council is aware that the Minister for Health has indicated that he would like dentists to be part of the process. In principle, the Dental Council supports and welcomes dentists and dental hygienists becoming part of the process. The Dental Council recognises that many registrants are already expert in administering injections and could make a significant contribution to the national effort. This will require an appropriate legal framework and perhaps some training to support the registrants, but once those administering the vaccination are competent to do so, there is no ethical barrier to partaking in the vaccination programme.

Vaccinating the Dental Team

The Dental Council has no other information other than the information already in the public domain on how the HSE intends to rollout the vaccination programme to the dental team. We understand that the HSE are establishing an online portal to manage the vaccination process and we support the willingness of the dental profession to receive vaccinations in the interests of patient safety and towards suppression of Covid-19.

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