How dentists can help with COVID vaccine efforts right now

For dentists who want to help with COVID vaccination efforts right now, they would be doing so under the recent federal order expanding the list of approved vaccinators during the public health emergency. The eight hours of training associated with the new state law is not required.

Current dentists, dentists who have been retired for less than five years and dental students are authorized to give vaccines under the emergency order. Here is the website to register and get more information on training requirements, professional liability and the like:

https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/COVIDvaccinators/Pages/default.aspx (this link is also available at WDA.org/virus)

Please note that this authorization is to allow dentists to vaccinate at community clinics and other places already providing COVID vaccines. Dentists are not expected to deliver COVID vaccines in their offices during the public health crisis.

Dentists can register to join the state’s vaccination workforce at the website above. If a dentist is asked to participate in a vaccination clinic, they should ask clinic organizers what they should do to train/prep. These links might be helpful:

- HHS Training Requirements for Joining the Expanded COVID-19 Vaccine Workforce
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Training and Education

Some members have asked us about professional liability. The recent federal act provides immunity from liability for qualified providers, including dentists. You can read more here:


Additionally, we have confirmed with MedPro – the WDA’s endorsed partner for professional liability insurance – that they will provide coverage to insured dentists working in public health settings in which vaccines are administered to patients who are not the doctor’s patients of record. In all instances, however, the dentist is urged to contact his/her professional liability carrier personally.

What’s next with the new state law

The law Gov. Evers signed on March 22 authorizes Wisconsin dentists to administer influenza and COVID vaccines in perpetuity, even after the public health crisis has passed. Eight hours of training are required, and the state is working on the training program. The WDA is working with the state, and we will share more information with members when it is available.

In the meantime – bottom line – is that interested dentists can join in current COVID vaccination efforts now, without waiting for state training.