



Dental Professionals as Vaccinators: *How and Why*

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**I have no financial or conflict of
interest issues to disclose.**

Background:

- Solo private practice dentist
 - Startup office, 5 ops, 3 hyg, 1 asst, 1 front desk, 1 cross-trained
- June-August 2021: Applied to MHS (state's database), ordered refrigerator and thermometer
- September 2021 – January 2023: Received shipments of flu and Moderna covid vaccines from the state and began administering to patients and community
- Flu season 2022-2023: Administered flu to patients attending their regular dental appointments
- Total vaccinated against flu and covid: 400+, approximately 50% were existing patients

Dentists as vaccinators - WHY?

Why? Accessibility of Environment

- Dental offices are quieter, smaller, and more accessible than most other vaccination sites
- Patients and community members are already familiar with office
- Scheduling infrastructure already exists
- Can be done during routine appointments
- More private

Why? Accessibility of Environment



Hynes Convention Center



Operatory 3 in my office

Why? Relationships with patients

- Many dentists treat all ages
- Two well visits plus procedural visits
- Longer relationships over generations
- Trust, comfort, education, and reassurance
- Members of the community
- Expansion of care: Hygienists and other colleagues can all help



An Opportunity!

- **In 2019, 29.5 million Americans had a dental visit with no medical visit in 2019**
- **In my 2022-2023 flu clinic, fewer than 20% of patients who got their flu shots during their dental appointment had been planning on getting one that day**

Why? Infrastructure - Nothing new!

- Sharps containers
- Sterile and aseptic techniques
- Patient anxiety reduction with injections
- Medical emergencies
- Paperwork and documentation
- Reviewing laws and regulations
- **Quick education on intramuscular injections, loading syringes, and purchasing a vaccine fridge**



Why? Infrastructure - Nothing new!



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Why? Scope of Practice

- Overall responsibility to practice preventive medicine
- Flu, covid, and HPV are all serious and deadly illnesses with community spread
- We are a branch of a patient's healthcare team
- Vaccinations can be performed concurrently with other procedures, saving time and money
- Patients really trust us!

Medicolegal considerations

March 16, 2021: The Department of Health and Human Services includes dentists as medical professionals who can vaccinate with proper training

(h) The following healthcare professionals and students in a healthcare profession training program subject to the requirements of this paragraph:

1. Any midwife, paramedic, advanced or intermediate emergency medical technician (EMT), physician assistant, respiratory therapist, **dentist**, podiatrist, optometrist or veterinarian licensed or certified to practice under the law of any state who prescribes, dispenses, or administers COVID-19 vaccines that are Covered Countermeasures under section VI of this Declaration in any jurisdiction where the PREP Act applies in association with a COVID-19 vaccination effort by a State, local, Tribal or territorial authority or by an institution in which the COVID-19 vaccine covered countermeasure is administered;

March 11, 2021: Order from the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health including dental hygienists and dental students as vaccinators

ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ALLOWING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TO ADMINISTER INFLUENZA and COVID-19 VACCINES

The purpose of this Order is to make possible the prompt administration of influenza vaccine and any COVID-19 vaccines with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in order to reduce morbidity and mortality from seasonal influenza and the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hereby determine that there will be insufficient health care professionals available for timely vaccine administration. Therefore, pursuant to my authority, as set out in G.L. c. 94C, § 7(g) and 105 CMR 700.003(H), I authorize the following individuals to possess and administer influenza vaccine and those COVID-19 vaccines with EUA as set out in this Order and accompanying guidance, and in compliance with any EUA:

1. The following health care professionals:

- Dental Hygienists; and
- Respiratory Therapists

2. Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), meaning both Advanced EMTs and EMT-Basics, who are duly certified by the Department of Public Health (the Department), and working in conjunction with ambulance services licensed by the Department or with the Massachusetts Military Division; and

3. Students enrolled in an approved or accredited program for licensure in the following health care professions, and acting in accordance with the policies of that program (Designated Students):

- Physicians;
- Nurses;
- Physician Assistants;
- Pharmacists;
- Dentists;

Medicolegal considerations

Statement From Malpractice Carrier

“Your EDIC malpractice policy moves in lockstep with what your State Law calls dental professional services.

Currently, the policy is specifically endorsed to provide coverage for administration of the COVID vaccine if permitted by your state. (See attached.)

*As far as the other vaccines that you list below, your malpractice policy covers your “professional services” to a patient. “Professional services” means “dental health care services” as defined by your State Board. Please follow your state dental statute and state board regulations regarding vaccine administration. **If your state dental act does not incorporate vaccine administration into dental professional services, then there would be no coverage under your EDIC policy.***

If approved by your Board, you don’t need any additional riders on your policy.”

Medicolegal considerations

Further statement from EDIC representative:

Our coverage follows the provision of dental professional services as defined by the dental statute in the insured's state. If the statute permits dentists to administer vaccines, then we cover it. **We created the endorsement for the COVID vaccine because we were moving faster than the Dental Boards in permitting this. But that's the exception. For all other vaccines, the dentist should ask their Board what they're permitted to administer.**

Medicolegal considerations - ADA codes added!

HPV for shots 1, 2, and 3: D1781, D1782, and D1783

- Brand new, wording not available yet
- I notified the ADA of the need for 2 codes

COVID Administration: D1701-D1714

*Note: ADA codes do not mean that carriers will pay.
Insurances first map the codes before covering them.*

Dentists as vaccinators - HOW?

How? Step 1: Register with your state database

- Massachusetts: Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS)

Registration

The following individuals and agencies may request access to the MIIS through the registration process:

- * Licensed health care providers providing direct care to patients
- * Elementary and secondary school nurses and registration officials
- * Local boards of health
- * Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Program
- * Staff of state agencies or state programs whose duties include education and outreach related to the improvement of immunization coverage rates among their clients

Any site who administers immunizations in Massachusetts must register for the MIIS (this includes privately and state purchased vaccines).

If your site does not normally administer immunizations but wants to administer COVID-19 vaccine only, please review the following guidance in detail to see if your site qualifies: [Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine management and administration for vaccine providers](#)

Let's get started!

Online registration will take approximately 3-5 minutes.

You will need the following:

- * Basic information about your organization
- * The organization's NPI # or Tax ID#

Begin Registration

How? Step 1: Register with your state database

- Massachusetts: Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS)

New Organization Registration

Complete the information below to start the registration process for your organization.

Step 1. Please select the type of organization you are registering:*

- ☐ K-12 School
- ☐ Medical Provider Site that administers vaccines
- ☐ State Agency
- ☐ Overarching Organization that oversees Individual Provider Sites

Are you the Supervising Physician/Site Manager/Designee? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Supervising Physician/Site Manager/Designee is someone who has the authority to approve the MIIS accounts to be created on behalf of your Organization. This could be a Medical Director, Office Manager, Nurse Manager etc.

Are you the Clinical Champion for your practice? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

A Clinical Champion is someone who would be in charge of the clinical roll-out process of the MIIS at your Organization. This person would oversee all workflows and ensure that staff are informed of MIIS policies and procedures.

Step 5. Please provide information about vaccine administration for your organization.

Please indicate if you would like to register with the MDPH Immunization Division to receive vaccine. Check all the boxes that apply to your site. For the list of routine vaccines, please visit [list of childhood routine vaccines](#) [list of adult routine vaccines](#)

☐ COVID Vaccine

☐ Routine Vaccine

☐ I do not wish to register at this time

Please select the populations you will be vaccinating (only required for Routine Vaccine)

☐ Pediatric

☐ Adult

Are you the Vaccine Coordinator for your practice? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

How? Step 1: Register with your state database

- Agree to registration agreements and site requirements, and submit!
- The state contacts you with any needed information and a link to a required training
- Prepare to tell them you are a dentist!

Patients

The Immunization Registry allows a user to create patient immunization records that store basic demographic and patient information. The information within the patient immunization record helps ensure that patients are properly immunized based on the latest recommendations.

Click a button below to make your selection.

SEARCH / CREATE PATIENTS

PATIENT DEDUPLICATION

IMMUNIZATION DEDUPLICATION

SEARCH CLINIC ROSTERS

NEW CLINIC ROSTER

GENERATE REMINDERS

New Flu/COVID-19 Order

61510220001 | 03/30/2022 | Order Initiated | [Save & Close](#) Last Saved 03/30/2022 11:52 AM

Request Vaccines

Next

[Cancel Order](#)

[Add an optional note for the vaccine unit](#)

VACCINE	TRADE NAME	PACKAGING	CEILING LIMIT	AVAILABLE TO ORDER	YOUR REQUEST
COVID-19 Janssen (J&J)	Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine	100 doses - 5 dose MDV	100	100	<input type="text" value="0"/>
COVID-19 Moderna	Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	100 doses - 10 dose MDV	100	100	<input type="text" value="0"/>
COVID-19 Pfizer 12+	Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine	300 doses - 6 dose MDV	300	300	<input type="text" value="0"/>
COVID-19 Pfizer 5-11	Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Pedi	100 doses - 10 dose MDV	100	100	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Don't see a vaccine listed? [Add a vaccine](#)

Next

Upload / History

Type: ☐ State-Supplied Data Logger (DL) ☒ Other *DL ID:

*Unit:

*Temperature Log Reason:

Notes:

4000 out of 4000 characters remaining in Notes field

[Attach File](#)

[Close](#)

Temperature Log History

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	DL ID	TEMPERATURE LOG REASON	TEMPERATURE LOG STATUS	UPLOAD DATE/TIME
Details View	Fridge	Refrigerator	16455698	Monthly Reporting	Approved	03/21/2022 3:24 PM
Details View	Fridge	Refrigerator	16455698	Monthly Reporting	Approved	02/16/2022 1:11 PM
Details View	Fridge	Refrigerator	16455698	Monthly Reporting	Approved	01/13/2022 4:08 PM
Details View	Fridge	Refrigerator	16455698	Monthly Flu	Approved	12/13/2021 10:49 AM
Details View	Fridge	Refrigerator	16455698	Monthly Reporting	Approved	11/15/2021 9:42 PM

Limitations on ordering state vaccines

- Practice type: Dentists are currently listed as Other
 - Can only receive flu (for under age 19) and covid (all ages)
- All other vaccines must be purchased directly from a manufacturer or distributor
- Current cost of HPV vaccine is over \$3000 for 10 doses



[Prescribing Information](#)

[Patient Product Information](#)

ORDER GARDASIL 9

Indication for GARDASIL 9

GARDASIL 9 is a vaccine indicated in females 9 through 45 years of age for the prevention of cervical, vulvar, vaginal, anal, oropharyngeal and other head and neck cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) Types 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58; cervical, vulvar, vaginal, and anal precancerous or dysplastic lesions



For Adolescents



For Adults



Dosage and Administration

Storage and Handling

Efficacy

CDC Recommendations

Reimbursement Information

GARDASIL 9 Resources



Disease Information

Patient Website



Take a Stand Against Certain HPV-Related Cancers— Including Cervical and Oropharyngeal— With HPV Vaccination

Help prevent cancers by vaccinating males and

Select Safety Information for GARDASIL 9



How to administer? - Immunize.org

Immunize.org formerly Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) [Sign up for email newsletter](#)

[Favorites](#) [Handouts & Staff Materials](#) [Clinic Tools](#) [Vaccine Information Statements](#) [Vaccines](#) [Talking about Vaccines](#)

Welcome
[IZ Express](#)
[Ask the Experts](#)
[Handouts](#)
[Immunization News](#)
[Shop IAC](#)

News & Information
 Check here for updates

CDC releases 2022 immunization schedules for children, adolescents and adults
 2/18/22
[View All](#)

Check Out
 IAC's COVID-19 web page for up-to-date information

Order now!
 2022 Laminated Immunization Schedules
 Child/Teen Adult

IZ Express
 Immunization news and information from your trusted source for more than 20 years!
 Delivered weekly to your inbox **FREE!**
[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Ask the Experts!
 IAC experts answer more than 1,000 questions from healthcare professionals about vaccines and their use.
[Read Ask the Experts](#)

Vaccinating Adults: A Step-by-Step Guide
 Download **FREE** 142-page Guide
www.immunize.org/guide

65+ FLU DEFENSE™
 Help Shield Older Adult Patients from Influenza

WEBINAR WATCH
 Fight the flu and COVID-19 too: Influenza vaccination now and beyond and practical approaches to vaccine coadministration in adults (12/9/21)

WEBINAR WATCH
 Translating COVID-19 Strategies to Improve Influenza Seasonal Flu Vaccination Efforts (9/20/21)

Favorites [WEB SECTIONS](#) [PRINTABLES](#)

1. COVID-19 Vaccines

How to Administer Intramuscular and Subcutaneous Vaccine Injections Administration by the Intramuscular (IM) Route

Administer these vaccines via IM route

- Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP, Tdap)
- Diphtheria-tetanus (DT, Td)
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis A (HepA)
- Hepatitis B (HepB)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Inactivated influenza (IIV)
- Meningococcal serogroups A,C,W,Y (MenACWY)
- Meningococcal serogroup B (MenB)
- Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13)
- Zoster, recombinant (RZV)

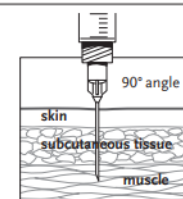
Administer inactivated polio (IPV) and pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23) vaccines either IM or subcutaneously (Subcut).

PATIENT AGE	INJECTION SITE	NEEDLE SIZE
Newborn (0–28 days)	Anterolateral thigh muscle	½" (22–25 gauge)
Infant (1–12 mos)	Anterolateral thigh muscle	1" (22–25 gauge)
Toddler (1–2 years)	Anterolateral thigh muscle	1–1¼" (22–25 gauge)
	Alternate site: Deltoid muscle of arm if muscle mass is adequate	½"–1" (22–25 gauge)
Children (3–10 years)	Deltoid muscle (upper arm)	½"–1" (22–25 gauge)
	Alternate site: Anterolateral thigh muscle	1–1¼" (22–25 gauge)
Children and adults (11 years and older)	Deltoid muscle (upper arm)	½"–1" (22–25 gauge)
	Alternate site: Anterolateral thigh muscle	1–1½" (22–25 gauge)

* A ½" needle usually is adequate for neonates (first 28 days of life), preterm infants, and children ages 1 through 18 years if the skin is stretched flat between the thumb and forefinger and the needle is inserted at a 90° angle to the skin.

† A ½" needle may be used in patients weighing less than 130 lbs (<60 kg) for IM injection in the deltoid muscle only if the skin is stretched flat between the

thumb and forefinger and the needle is inserted at a 90° angle to the skin; a 1" needle is sufficient in patients weighing 130–152 lbs (60–70 kg); a 1–1½" needle is recommended in women weighing 153–200 lbs (70–90 kg) and men weighing 153–260 lbs (70–118 kg); a 1½" needle is recommended in women weighing more than 200 lbs (91 kg) or men weighing more than 260 lbs (118 kg).



Needle insertion

Use a needle long enough to reach deep into the muscle.

Insert needle at a 90° angle to the skin with a quick thrust.

(Before administering an injection of vaccine, it is not necessary to aspirate, i.e., to pull back on the syringe plunger after needle insertion.†)

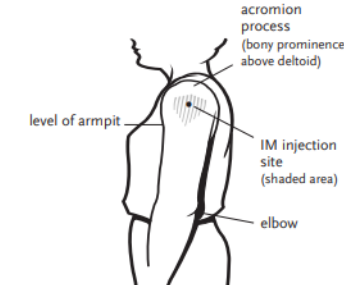
Multiple injections given in the same extremity should be separated by a minimum of 1", if possible.

Intramuscular (IM) injection site for infants and toddlers



Insert needle at a 90° angle into the anterolateral thigh muscle.

Intramuscular (IM) injection site for children and adults



Give in the central and thickest portion of the deltoid muscle – above the level of the armpit and approximately 2–3 fingerbreadths (~2")

How to store? - The CDC has everything!

Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit

COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Requirements

The Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit has been updated with a COVID-19 Vaccine Addendum with information on Storage and Handling best practices for COVID-19 vaccines. All vaccination providers participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program must store and handle COVID-19 vaccines under proper conditions to maintain the cold chain as outlined in the toolkit and addendum.

This addendum will be updated with specific storage and handling information for each COVID-19 product. Please sign up for email alerts on this page to be notified when updates are made or check this website often.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccination provider requirements and resources on enrollment, ordering, and data in support of vaccination visit [COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Requirements and Support | CDC](#)

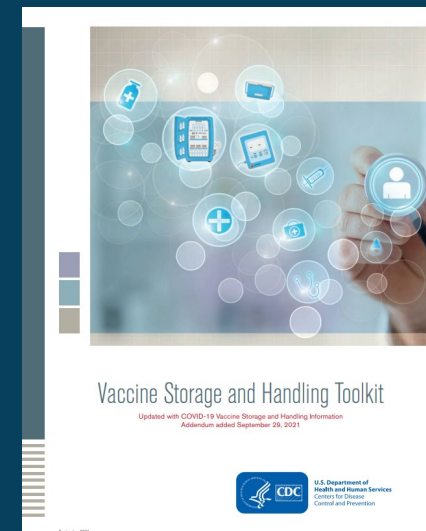
The 2021 Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit is a comprehensive guide that reflects best practices for vaccine storage and handling from Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, product information from vaccine manufacturers, and scientific studies.

The toolkit has been updated for 2021 to clarify language including:

- Beyond use date (BUD)
- Routine maintenance for vaccine storage units
- New definition added to the glossary
- COVID-19 vaccine information



Vaccine Toolkit!



Reimbursement



Reimbursement

There are three numbers needed to bill medical insurance:

1. ICD10 code Z23: Vaccine-Related Encounter
2. Code for the vaccine itself *if you purchased it*
 - Flu is 90674 for under age 65
3. Code for administration of the vaccine
 - 90471EP

Reimbursement

Print on a preprinted red
medical 1500 claim form



		QTC Veteran Exam 6 Kensington Ave		Somerville MA 0214	
		X		Z	
Test, Test		01 01 1991		Test, Test	
123 Main Street		X		123 Main Street	
Somerville	MA			Somerville	MA
02145				02145	
		X		01 01 1991	
		X			
		X		QTC Veteran Exam	
				X	
Signature on File		03/26/2023		Signature on File	
DN					
03 26 23	03 26 23 11	90674		110.00 1	1760793087
03 26 23	03 26 23 11	90471E		110.00 1	1760793087
454650934	X		X	220.00	617 623 2100
KatieRose R Wagner DDS	03/26/2023	Wagner Katie Rose R DDS 6 Kensington Ave Somerville MA 02145-2107 1326304841		Wagner Katie Rose R DDS 6 Kensington Ave Somerville MA 02145-2107 1326304841	

Reimbursement

- Snail mail the 1500 form
- Insurance sends a check and EOB
- All dentists are out of network
 - Exception: Oral surgeons and dentists who have applied for durable medical for sleep apnea

Reimbursement

We very slowly got paid for flu vaccines!

But....what's the problem here? Example 1

Medical Insurance Name	Coverage for vaccine	Coverage for administration
Tufts	0 (deductible, charge pt)	0 (deductible, charge pt)
Tufts	43.42	25.12
Tufts	43.42	25.12
Tufts	0 (no preauth?)	20.45
Tufts	100	25.12
Tufts	100	25.12
Tufts Spirit Plan?	0 (No out of network)	0 (No out of network)

Reimbursement

We very slowly got paid for flu vaccines!

But....what's the problem here? Example 2

Medical Insurance Name	Coverage for vaccine	Coverage for administration
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	23.25	0 (no reason)
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	0 (lack of prior approval)	0 (lack of prior approval)
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	29.94	0 (no reason)
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	70.53	19.06

Reimbursement

Billing for COVID:

- MassHealth was using the ADA code to determine if dentists are vaccinating
- Attempted the ADA code for MassHealth: *It was denied*
- There are no ADA codes for flu vaccine
- HPV vaccine is only mapped, not covered

Next Steps For Reimbursement:

- ADA codes for flu
- ADA establishing 6 codes for HPV, not 3
- Dental insurances finishing mapping and covering
- Medical insurance recognizing dentists as vaccinators

Considerations for administering HPV Vaccine

- Billing dental insurance will be MUCH easier
- Very high upfront cost with no guarantee of payment
- Biggest impact in preventing head and neck cancers
- Important access to care

Next Steps For Supporting Dental Vaccinators:

- Permanent verbiage in state law
- Consistent, accessible online training
- Adding this information to dental, hygiene, and assisting school curricula
- MHS recognizing dentists
- ADA providing guidance and a page on web site
- ADA adding CDT codes for flu vaccine



Thank You!

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