

## International Analysis Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations for Dental Hygienists

The IFDH encourages each member country to engage with your government health officials to ensure Dental Hygienists as a priority, as part of the “frontline health and social care workers” groups. Below are the results of the situation for Dental Hygienists in several countries.

Country	Lobbied Gov't Yes <i>Yes &amp; Successful</i> Not Yet/Will Do No	Response Details
Australia	No	Many are happy to get the vaccine asap, and therefore would like to be included as a priority, whereas others recognise that there has been no evidence of transmission in dental practices and would rather see more vulnerable groups vaccinated first.
Australia (ADOHTA)	No	We are still awaiting further information from the government regarding oral health professionals, but late last year there was information indicating that the entire dental team would be prioritised for vaccination.
Canada	Yes & Successful	In Canada, decisions on prioritization of vaccine delivery is up to the provinces. The first priority across Canada is long-term care. Fortunately, we're seeing dental hygienists who work in long-term care being included in priority vaccine access. The majority of provinces have identified that dental hygienists will be included in the first wave of vaccinations (after LTC), along with other primary healthcare professionals. Hopefully most who choose so, will have access to vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021. We have been identified by Public Safety Canada as an essential caregiver for priority access to vaccine
Czech Republic	Not Yet/Will Do	Vaccination starting slowly here. Dental Hygienists are not prioritizing. We'll try to change it. The document will help us.
Finland	No	Unfortunately, Dental Hygienists are not as a priority part of the health care personnel although we know that DH are one of the highest at risk of the virus. Not even close, because we are considered as the ordinary population!
Israel	Yes & Successful	We successfully lobbied to allow dental staff to be among the first wave to be vaccinated. We also assisted with the logistics of providing hygienists an opportunity to be vaccinated at major medical centers throughout the country.
Japan	Yes & Successful	The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare is making coordination for COVID-19 Vaccination, giving top priority of vaccination to healthcare workers by the end of February. At present, government institutions are checking and coordinating individual intension for vaccinations with relevant organizations, such as Dental Associations and local authorities, as well as medical institutions. Despite regional differences, dental hygienists may also be preferentially vaccinated
Korea	No	The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency plans to vaccinate the public at the fourth quarter of 2021. Health care providers will be given priority over vaccination vaccinated at the first and second quarters of 2021.
Lithuania	No	Dental Hygienists as primary health care providers are starting to be vaccinated in Lithuania. First are those working in hospitals and second, all working in private clinics.
Malta	Successful	All hygienists have been given the vaccine. We were among the first to be called by health authorities.
Norway	Yes	The national institute of public health has done an examination about different occupational groups about Covid-19. The dental health groups are among those with least infection. The personal have good infections routines. The dental hygienist association has been engaged in the preventive work and communication with the health authorities throughout the year 2020.
Portugal	Yes & Successful	Our Association is doing all the efforts with the Ministry of Health. The hygienists of the National Health Service have already received the vaccine but they represent only about 20% of Portuguese dental hygienists. The one's that do private practice are considered by the government as a priority group as well as dentist but till now no one received yet.
Slovakia	No	The vaccine is available in Slovakia and most hygienists have already been vaccinated. But there is a long waiting list. Vaccinated are only medical staff

<b>S. Africa</b>	<b>No</b>	No vaccine here as yet, all in negotiation at the moment. I do know that there is collaboration between the South African Dental Association and the government.
<b>UK</b>	<b>Successful</b>	Dental Hygienists are in phase 2 of the priority groups. I have already had my first vaccination, but it may vary from region to region.
<b>14</b>		