IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MARYLAND LICENSED DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND DENTAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS

MARYLAND LICENSED DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND DENTAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS MAY ADMINISTER THE COVID-19 VACCINE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS

No. MDH 2020-12-08-01

IMPORTANT NOTE


THE DENTAL BOARD HAS NO CONTROL OVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE VACCINE, AND IS NOT AWARE AT THIS TIME OF THE DATE WHEN THE VACCINE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR DENTAL STAFF. YOU MAY WISH TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER DETAILS, AND TO DETERMINE IF IT HAS A PRELIMINARY DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE.

On December 8, 2020, Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Maryland Health Secretary, issued an Order titled “Directive and Order Regarding Various Vaccination Matters.” The Order allows all health care practitioners, including those who are licensed or certified to administer any COVID-19 vaccine that has U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval. With respect to the Board of Dental Examiners, this includes dentists, dental hygienists, dental radiation technologists.

Before administering the vaccination, the following conditions must be met:

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners
1. Each individual, including the supervising dentist, must have “successfully completed training on the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.” The Board suggests that individuals complete the following course offered by the CDC: COVID-19 Vaccine Training Module and you can access it by going to this link: https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/.

Dentists must use their professional judgment to determine if they and the dental hygienists and dental radiation technologists under their supervision are properly trained to administer the vaccine. The training must include vaccine storage, preparation, administration, and possible side effects. The training may be completed on-line. Written evidence of the training should be maintained. The training may not have occurred prior to December 8, 2020.

If the vaccine is provided in a private dental office, the patient must be provided with a written document indicating the name of the administrator, the date of the vaccination, the name of the vaccination, the name of the manufacturer, the dosage amount, identification of possible side effects, and, if applicable, the range of dates on which the patient should seek a second dose. If the vaccine is administered in a health care facility, clinic, or other site, the protocols of that site should be followed. It is permissible for the facility to maintain the administration record.

2. In a private dental office the administration of the vaccine by dental hygienists and dental radiation technologists must be under the “reasonable supervision” of a dentist. The Dental Board interprets the provision to mean “on-site” supervision. The dentist must be physically on site, and available for immediate consultation, but not necessarily in the same operatory or room, and the patient should be asked to remain on the premises for at least 15 minutes for observation to determine if there are any complications associated with the vaccination. If the vaccine is administered in a health care facility other than a private dental office, the protocols of the facility should be followed.

There is no requirement that the patient be a prior “Patient of Record” whether the vaccine is administered in or out of a dentist’s private office.

If the patient indicates that they have a primary care physician, reasonable efforts should be made to advise the primary care physician of the vaccination.
Personnel Who May Prepare Vaccines for Administration

Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental radiation technologists who have “received appropriate training on the preparation and dilution of COVID-19 vaccines may prepare the vaccines for administration.” Dentists must exercise their professional judgment in determining whether they and those under their supervision have received adequate training. Records of the training must be maintained.

The patient’s administration record must include at least the following:

• the name of the administrator;
• the date of the vaccination;
• the name of the vaccination;
• the name of the manufacturer;
• the dosage amount;
• identification of possible side effects; and
• if applicable, the range of dates on which the patient should seek a second dose.

The Board is aware that vaccine doses are limited and that in the immediate future the vaccine will not be available for dentists to administer in private dental offices. The Board cannot provide a date at which time they will be available. Dentists and their appropriately trained staff may wish to make themselves available to administer the vaccine in medical facilities, public health facilities, and mobile vaccination clinics. If interested, contact your county health department. In the meantime, please continue to follow all CDC guidelines especially those concerning the proper use of PPE.

Please keep in mind that as of October 2019, all vaccinations administered in the State of Maryland are required to be reported to ImmuNet. See the attached link for details. https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/immunet-for-health-care-providers.aspx
The December 8, 2020 Order is attached.


Penalties

Persons who violate the Order and Directive may face administrative and criminal sanctions to include imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding $5,000 or both.

The Board will provide periodic updates as the matter progresses.

Thank you.