

ADA NSW Position on COVID-19 Vaccination

ADA NSW supports vaccination against COVID-19 for all eligible members of the community. Our position aligns with the Commonwealth, NSW and ACT Health departments' advice that vaccination of the Australian population against COVID-19 is an important and vital public health response to the pandemic.

ADA NSW supports the National Boards and Ahpra joint position statement on the expectations of registered health practitioners and students in relation to COVID-19 vaccination. We believe that all registered health practitioners and students, including dental practitioners and students should be vaccinated against COVID-19 unless medically contraindicated, in order to contribute to achieving high levels of vaccination in the community as well as having individual protection against COVID-19.

All employers have an obligation, wherever practicable, to ensure the health and safety of all their workers. This includes minimising the risks associated with exposure to communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Vaccination has been identified as an effective measure to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Therefore, ADA NSW supports the mandating of COVID-19 vaccinations in the dental profession and the implementation of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements in dental practices for all workers.

Many dental practitioners and students will also have a vital role in educating the public and the teams they work with about the importance and safety of COVID-19 vaccines. ADA NSW encourages dental practitioners to use their expertise and influence to inform and advance the health and wellbeing of individuals as well as communities, in line with the Dental Board of Australia Code of Conduct, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) guidelines and other relevant guidelines. Dental practitioners should support and encourage members of their teams and the community to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The publication and distribution of misleading anti-vaccination material or advice by a registered dental practitioner (including via social media) could result in regulatory action by the TGA under Therapeutics Goods Law or Ahpra Guidelines under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

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All COVID-19 vaccinations available and administered in Australia have been approved for use by the Australian Therapeutics Goods Administration following rigorous assessment of the available safety and efficacy data. The available vaccines have all been shown by the TGA to be highly effective in preventing severe disease, hospitalisation and death. ADA NSW is therefore in full support of the national COVID-19 vaccination program and encourages our members to positively contribute to this important pandemic response through receiving COVID-19 vaccinations themselves and advocating for community health through the provision of accurate information and advice about COVID-19 vaccination.

ADA NSW also supports those dental practitioners and students who perform alternative roles in the pandemic response, including administration of vaccinations and COVID-19 testing, with requisite training.

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