



STATE OF IOWA

IOWA DENTAL BOARD

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

JILL STUECKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Memorandum

To: Members of the Iowa General Assembly
From: The Iowa Dental Board
Re: Background Memo on Proposed Legislation
Date: 11/23/20

This bill seeks to authorize Iowa-licensed dentists to provide influenza and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines to patients. Requirements include training in vaccine administration and use of the statewide immunization registry or health information network.

Dentists are highly trained healthcare providers with a four-year post-graduate degree, who are experts in giving injections. Three states currently allow dentists to administer vaccines. Oregon permits dentists to administer all vaccines. Minnesota and Illinois permit dentists to administer flu vaccines.

In October, 2020, the American Dental Association passed Resolution 91H-2020 which states that dentists have the requisite knowledge and skills to administer critical vaccines that prevent life-or health-threatening conditions and protect the life and health of patients and staff at the point of care. According to Duc M. Ho, D.D.S and chair of the ADA Council on Dental Practice, "The pandemic has highlighted the potential benefits of an expanded role for dentists in preventive health care, including access to and the administration of vaccines."

In an open-session Board meeting on November 13, 2020, members of the Iowa Dental Board agreed with this assessment, highlighting the fact that providing additional access points to patients for both the influenza and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines further integrates medicine and dentistry, provides convenience to patients, and is good public health policy. State dental boards around the country are discussing this opportunity, and Iowa is well positioned to be on the forefront of this public health effort.

Pharmacists in Iowa have been successfully and safely provided vaccines to patients for more than a decade. They are expected to be a significant partner in the public health effort to administer SARS-CoV-2, influenza, and childhood vaccines. Dentists can successfully and safely do the same.