



January 19, 2021

The Honorable Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee:

The Tennessee Dental Association (TDA) represents more than 2,500 dentists across Tennessee. Many of our members are eager to assist in administering the COVID-19 vaccine if authorized by executive order. As Tennessee moves toward vaccinating the population-at-large and vaccine doses increase, additional healthcare personnel will be needed to efficiently administer vaccinations while nurses and physicians continue to care for COVID-19 patients.

While dentists may seem an atypical vaccinator, dentists are skilled at administering injections. Surprisingly, dentists administer injections more often than most of their medical counterparts. They also administer injections in the mouth-- a complex area with gag reflexes, major blood vessels, nerves, and a moving tongue. This experience makes dentists one of the most prepared groups of healthcare providers to utilize.

Acting now is important to be ready to vaccinate the larger phases. Authorizing dentists now will allow time to mobilize as many dentists as possible to support this effort. Many dentists are accessing the COVID-19 vaccine training modules through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but many more will complete the training if asked to assist. They want to be part of the solution!

Many states have already moved to allow dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines including: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington. We urge you to authorize dentists to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to Tennesseans, too. The Tennessee Dental Association will assist you by making dentists aware and widely sharing training and requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jeannie Beauchamp at 931-245-3333 or Mrs. Andrea Hayes at 615-628-0208 or andrea@tndentalassociation.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Jean Beauchamp'.

K Jean Beauchamp, D.D.S.
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrea Hayes'.

Andrea Hayes, CAE
Executive Director