



## **The Maryland State Dental Association Supports SB 808 – Health Occupations – Licensed Dentists – Administration of Vaccines**

*Respectfully submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on behalf of the Maryland State Dental Association*

The administration of vaccinations is within the scope of practice of Maryland dentists. The administration of vaccines is part of the curriculum of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and other accredited dental schools in the United States. However, it is appropriate for the State Board of Dental Examiners to regulate the administration of vaccines by dentists. The bill authorizes the Board to develop regulations to govern the administration of vaccine by licensed dentists in a manner consistent with the provisions of SB 808.

**Why the administration of vaccines by dentists is safe:** Dentists are required to maintain certification in infection control training, personal protective equipment, CPR and they are well trained to handle medical emergencies. Dentists obtain and maintain medical histories of their patients, in which medical conditions, medications and other pertinent information is included. Dentists also have special training to help patients who are phobic about injections and dentists are highly skilled in administering injections.

**Why the administration of vaccines by dentists promotes good health among Marylanders:** Dental patients tend to see their dentist twice a year, which is often more frequently than they see their physician. During these visits the dentist reviews the patient medical history, screens for chronic diseases, inquires about vaccinations and, if requested by the patient, can administer required vaccines. Many Maryland dentists have enrolled in the Maryland Reserve Medical Corp, and have obtained training in the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. They are prepared to assist in vaccinating our fellow Marylanders as soon as the vaccines are available through local health departments. The inclusion of dentists in vaccination programs will increase the advocacy for vaccinations, and will facilitate the administration of vaccines to Marylanders that do not typically receive vaccines.

**The provisions of SB 808:** SB 808 clearly outlines requirements concerning a dentist's administration of vaccines to children and adults. It specifically provides when a prescription from an authorized provider is required, and directs the dentist to report all vaccines administered to the ImmuNet Program. It sets out procedures for notifying the patient's primary care provider that the vaccine has been administered.

SB 808 directs that a dentist obtain 1) a signed medical history which includes past vaccinations, drug interactions, known allergies and known complications and 2) a signed consent form that outlines the benefits and risks of the vaccine. It further provides that in non-life-threatening situations, the dentist is to enter immediately the vaccine, dosage amount and

date in the patient's chart. The patient is to be provided an immunization card and a separate document providing important information concerning the dentist, the vaccine, normal reactions, instructions, list of possible side effects etc. Finally, SB 808 establishes educational and other prerequisites a dentist must satisfy before being authorized to administer vaccinations. In addition, the dentist is required to maintain his or her CPR certification.

**Conclusion:** SB 808 provides prescriptive measures that a dentist must satisfy to be authorized to administer vaccinations. It establishes specific requirements relating to vaccinations based on the age of the patient. It directs notification of each vaccination to ImmuNet and to the patient's primary provider. These and other provisions of SB 808 will enhance the distribution of necessary vaccinations to Marylanders. SB 808 provides the opportunity for patients to be vaccinated by a provider they visit frequently, who is skilled in the administration of injections, and is qualified to reduce stress for needle phobic patients.

**The Maryland State Dental Association respectfully requests that SB 808 receive a Favorable Report.**

**Submitted by:  
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