

Press Release

Embargoed until 00:01 CET/Thursday 25 February 2021

New FDI World Dental Federation global survey reveals that two-thirds of countries are not allowing dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines

Survey also shows that half of the responding countries have agreed to include dentists in their priority vaccination groups

Thursday, 25 February 2021 (Geneva, Switzerland) — [FDI World Dental Federation today](#) called for more countries to enable dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines after a survey of its members revealed the small number of countries currently permitted to do so. The survey was facilitated by FDI's COVID-19 Task Team.

Fifty-seven member national dental associations, from across the globe, revealed that nearly two-thirds of countries had not granted permission to dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines as part of national rollouts. In Europe, countries where dentists are not permitted to administer the vaccine include Switzerland, Portugal, Austria, Denmark, Slovakia, and Russia (see Table 1).

In France, the National Order of Dental Surgeons has called on the government to grant permission to the profession, but no authorization has been given to date. Discussions are also ongoing in Spain, Sweden, Ireland, Australia, Kenya, Hong Kong, and Germany.

“Oral health is a fundamental component of overall health and well-being and oral healthcare is an essential public service,” said Dr **Gerhard Konrad Seeberger**, president of FDI World Dental Federation.

“Efforts should be made to enable dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines when possible within national legislation and regulations, and with minimal disruption to oral healthcare services.”

Countries permitting dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines

Of the 57 survey responses, the countries who have granted authorization to the profession to administer vaccines include: Cambodia, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Serbia, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom (17 per cent) (see Table 2). Significantly, some of these countries include those where dentists have not previously been allowed to administer vaccines, or at least the influenza vaccine.

In the [United States](#) around 20 states are currently permitting dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

Inclusion of dentists in priority vaccination groups



The survey also examined the prioritization of dentists in COVID-19 vaccine roll-out programmes.

A total 53 per cent of responding countries said that dentists would be included in priority vaccination groups (see Table 2), 12 per cent said that they would not be, and 18 per cent responded that the vaccination programme and priority groups were still being planned. Those countries NOT including dentists as a priority group include Cambodia, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Thailand (See Table 1).

Ahead of World Oral Health Day on March 20, FDI will release a new set of data around the caseload of COVID-19 infection amongst dentists around the world.

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Further information:

Michael Kessler
FDI Media Relations
Mob: +34 655 792 699
Email: michael.kessler@inton-media.com
Twitter: @mickessler

About FDI World Dental Federation: FDI is the main representative body for more than one million dentists worldwide, with a vision of leading the world to optimal oral health. Its membership comprises some 200 national member associations and specialist groups in over 130 countries. www.fdiworlddental.org

Notes to Editors:

Table 1

Countries where dentists will not be permitted to administer COVID-19 vaccines	Countries where dentists will not be included in priority vaccination groups
Andorra	Cambodia
Austria	Colombia
Burkina Faso	Kazakhstan
Denmark	Romania
Guam	Saudi Arabia
Honduras	South Korea
Israel	Thailand
Japan	
Myanmar	
Netherlands	



Portugal
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Seychelles
Slovakia
Switzerland
Thailand
Turkey

Table 2

Countries where dentists are permitted to administer vaccine	Countries where dentists are confirmed to be included in priority vaccination groups
Cambodia	Australia
Colombia	Austria
Egypt	Canada
India	Chile
Indonesia	Denmark
Lebanon	Egypt
Nigeria	Georgia
Serbia	Germany
Slovenia	Greece
United Kingdom	Guam
United States	Honduras
	India
	Indonesia
	Israel
	Japan
	Lebanon
	Myanmar
	Netherlands
	Panama
	Portugal
	Russia
	Serbia
	Seychelles
	Slovakia
	Slovenia
	Spain



	Sri Lanka
	Turkey
	Ukraine
	United Kingdom

Source: FDI World Federation Member Survey November 2020-January 2021. The survey was sent to 113 countries.