



5250 Neil Road, Suite 203 • Reno, NV 89502
nevadacancercoalition.org

Dear Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners:

This letter concerns provisions for the issuance of a special endorsement to dental providers to administer immunizations to be reviewed August 14, 2024. We are requesting the addition of immunizations for human papillomavirus (HPV) to Section 10.

Thank you for your consideration and actions regarding Assembly Bill 147 (82nd Legislature, 2023) at the recent Board Meeting held on March 13, 2024. The Association of American Medical Colleges ranked Nevada 45th in the nation for the ratio of active physicians to population (2,018 per 100,000 residents in 2021). This severe healthcare provider shortage greatly impacts the effective administration of vaccines. Extending vaccination privileges to dental professionals will greatly assist in this effort. However, the current recommendations to be reviewed at this meeting exclude a vaccine to prevent cancers already intimately related to the work of the dental community - the HPV vaccine.

HPV is a very common virus; nearly 42 million people are currently infected in the United States and an estimated 85% of people will be infected in their lifetime. HPV infection is related to a number of cancers, including nearly 70% of oropharyngeal cancers. And unfortunately, the incidence rate of head and neck cancers is increasing annually. The HPV vaccine can potentially prevent more than 90% of HPV-related cancers.

It is already within the standard of practice for the dental community to screen for head and neck cancers - we now ask that you expand your regulation recommendations to help prevent these cancers most often caused by HPV infection. We kindly request that the regulations do not limit dental professionals to *only administer immunizations for influenza and COVID-19*, but allow dentist to select from all vaccines, including the HPV vaccine. This will greatly benefit your patients by increasing access to immunizations and ultimately preventing cancer.

We would be glad to answer any questions, address any concerns, and provide appropriate public comments. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.