



BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Andy Beshear
Governor

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Jeffrey Allen
Executive Director

July 28, 2021

AO 21-01



Re: Opinion and Declaratory Ruling on the Provision of Vaccinations as Dentistry

Dear [REDACTED]

On July 24, 2021, the Kentucky Board of Dentistry addressed your request for the Board's interpretation of whether "vaccinations are considered to be within the scope of dentistry." The Board has the authority to issue Opinions and Declaratory Rulings pursuant to KRS 13A.130(3) and 13A.010(2)(b) as the agency with jurisdiction to interpret the statutes and administrative regulations governing the practice of dentistry in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A review of KRS Chapter 313 and the administrative regulations promulgated thereunder, in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A, has resulted in the ruling established herein.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") maintains a list of vaccines used in the United States to reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop immunity to disease. For the purpose of this Opinion, "vaccination" or "vaccine" shall mean any of the vaccines referenced by the CDC in its most updated list, which can currently be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/vaccines-list.html>.

KRS 313.010(2) defines "dentistry" as "the evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, or surgical, nonsurgical, or related treatment of diseases, disorders, or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area, or the adjacent and associated structures and their impact on the human body provided by a dentist within the scope of his or her education, training, and experience and in accordance with the ethics of the profession and applicable law." The Board has concluded that in accordance with KRS 313.010, vaccinations may be used to prevent diseases, disorders, and conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area, or the adjacent and associated structures – as well as of the human body generally which may affect the oral cavity, maxillofacial area, or the adjacent and associated structures. Additionally, dentists are educated, trained, and experienced in injections, as required by statute for a service to be considered within the scope of "dentistry."

In conclusion, the definition of “dentistry” as enacted by the General Assembly allows dentists to administer vaccines. Nothing in this ruling shall be construed to exclude a dentist from providing a professional standard of care and practicing within the scope of his or her practice; therefore, any dentist who fails to provide a professional standard of care or practices beyond the scope of his or her license in administering vaccines may be disciplined by the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPA', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey Allen, MPA, Executive Director
Kentucky Board of Dentistry