



## Immunization Programs

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### CDC Recommendations

The 2003 CDC infection control guidelines for dentistry recommend that dental offices develop a written policy on immunizing healthcare providers, including a list of immunizations that are recommended and those that are required by local, state, or federal regulations.

OSHA requires that employers make available at no cost to the employee the [hepatitis B vaccine series](#) to all employees who potentially have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.

In addition, the Guidelines recommend that dental healthcare workers receive vaccinations from a qualified healthcare provider based on the

- [latest recommendations](#);
- DHCW's [medical history](#);
- DHCW's risk of exposure (e.g., to blood or other potentially infectious material).

### Tips for Developing an Immunization Policy

- Your policy should incorporate federal, state, and local regulations. Check with your state and local public health departments about requirements that are specific to your area. Contact information for state public health departments can be accessed at <http://www.statelocalgov.net/50states-health.cfm>.
- Consider the potential of each employee to come into contact with blood and other potentially infectious material, either through direct patient contact or when handling contaminated instruments, cleaning the operatory, or handling infectious waste.
- Include provisions to educate employees who are unable or refuse to be vaccinated, as recommended or required, about their exposure risks, infection control policies and procedures, and the management of work-related illness and work restrictions (if applicable).