Henry Schein hosts ‘Managing Through Crisis,’ a virtual global media event

Corporate leaders discuss key lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, dental industry trends and business updates during briefing for trade media editors

By Henry Schein Staff

Henry Schein Inc hosted a virtual global media event during the Chicago Midwinter Meeting, titled “Managing Through Crisis for a Stronger Tomorrow,” during which the company’s leadership presented its view of the future of dentistry within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To start the event, held the morning of Feb. 25, Stanley M. Bergman, Henry Schein’s chairman of the board and chief executive officer, presented key learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic, including how dentists around the world can play a key role as front-line responders during the pandemic as well as the importance of dental practitioners being involved with administering COVID-19 point-of-care rapid tests and vaccinations.

"The past year has been incredibly challenging for the dental profession and for society in general," Bergman said. "We are optimistic that dental teams globally will emerge stronger from the crisis as they accelerate the adoption of digital technologies to advance the delivery of care.”

Following Bergman’s presentation, Jonathan Koch, senior vice president and chief executive officer of Henry Schein’s Global Dental Group, provided insights on the Global Dental Group’s support of customers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and shared his perspective on emerging trends in the global dental market.

Six additional Henry Schein leaders also discussed how their regions handled the challenges presented by COVID-19 and provided key business updates within their geographies: A.J. Caffentzis, president, US Dental Distribution; Andrea Albertini, president, EMEA Distribution Group; René Willi, president, Global Dental Surgical Group; Prashant Ohri, vice president and general manager, Henry Schein Canada; and David Broux, president, Strategic Business Units and Asia Pacific and Brazil Dental.

“From the beginning of the pandemic, Henry Schein’s Global Dental Group has remained flexible in its approach to serving our customers, our supplier partners, our Team Schein Members and the communities in which we live and work,” Koch said. “As the dental profession continues to change, our team remains steadfast in our commitment to staying agile so that customers can ‘Rely On Us’ to provide a wide variety solutions so dental professionals can focus on delivering high-quality care.”

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

By FDI World Dental Federation Staff

The FDI World Dental Federation (www.fdiworlddental.org/vaccines) has 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 permitting dentists 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 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.

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 health care 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 that have granted authorization to the profession to administer vaccines include Cambodia, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Serbia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom (17 percent). Significantly, some of these countries include those where dentists have not previously been allowed to administer vaccines, or at least the influenza vaccine.

Inclusion of dentists in priority vaccination groups

The survey also examined the prioritization of dentists in COVID-19 vaccine roll-out programs. A total 53 percent of responding countries said dentists would be included in priority vaccination groups, 12 percent said they would not be and 18 percent said the vaccination 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.

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.