

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

STATEWIDE STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

Pursuant to the authority contained in Iowa Code sections 135.144(3) and (6), I, Caitlin Pedati, State Medical Director, hereby issue the following Standing Order for COVID-19 Vaccination (Order):

I. Purpose

This Order is intended to authorize qualified persons to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible individuals to reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. This Order is intended to provide authorization for COVID-19 vaccination which is not otherwise authorized through a treating health care provider, long term care facility medical director, or occupational health provider. This Order is intended to supplement and not supplant such existing authorization.

II. Legal Authority

The Governor of the State of Iowa issued a proclamation of public health disaster emergency on March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The state of public health disaster emergency has been subsequently extended and is currently in effect as of the date of this Order. Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 135.144(3) and (6), the Department of Public Health (Department) is authorized during a public health disaster to take all reasonable measures as necessary to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 including the issuance of orders providing for vaccination. This Order authorizes qualified persons to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible individuals.

III. Definitions

For purpose of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

“*ACIP*” means the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

“*COVID-19 vaccine*” or “*COVID-19 vaccination*” means a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through either an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or other FDA approval mechanism.

“Eligible individual” means an individual eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination, including: (1) an individual in a priority designation which has been activated for vaccination in accordance with the Vaccine Shortage Order issued December 14, 2020, or subsequent Supplemental Shortage Order (2) an individual who has been otherwise authorized for vaccination by the Department.

“Qualified person” means a person who has enrolled in the CDC COVID-19 vaccination program *and* is authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccine including: (1) a person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of the state of Iowa or Gubernatorial Proclamations of Disaster Emergency issued on or after March 9, 2020, to administer vaccinations; or (2) a person authorized pursuant to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act to administer COVID-19 vaccine, including qualified pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist.

IV. Authorization

This Order authorizes a qualified person to administer COVID-19 vaccine to an eligible individual.

V. Procedure

A qualified person shall:

- A. Obtain informed consent from the eligible individual or their legal representative prior to administering COVID-19 vaccine.
- B. Assess eligible individuals based on COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer criteria, including age restrictions.
- C. Screen all eligible individuals for contraindications and precautions by utilizing CDC’s Pre-Vaccination Form for COVID-19 Vaccine.
- D. Provide the eligible individual or their legal representative a copy of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the COVID-19 vaccine or the Emergency Use Authorization fact sheet. Provide non-English speaking eligible individuals with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if available and preferred.
- E. Choose the needle gauge, needle length, and route of administration according to the ACIP General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization.
- E. Administer COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with the ACIP General

Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization and COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer guidance.

VI. Reporting

A qualified person shall document each eligible individual's vaccine administration information and follow up in the following places:

- A. Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS): All doses of COVID-19 vaccine must be recorded in IRIS within 24 hours of administration.
- B. Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine.
- C. Personal immunization record card: record the date of vaccination, the brand of COVID-19 vaccine administered and the name/location of the administering clinic. This card shall be provided to the vaccine recipient.

VII. Management of Adverse Events

Per the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement, COVID-19 vaccination providers are required to report adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination and should report clinically important adverse events even if it is undetermined if the vaccination caused the event. Vaccine manufacturers are required to report to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) all adverse events that come to their attention. VAERS reports should be submitted at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

VIII. Medical Care

A qualified person shall observe vaccine recipients after vaccination to monitor for the occurrence of immediate adverse reactions: persons with a history of any anaphylaxis for 30 minutes; all other persons for 15 minutes or as recommended by the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer. A qualified person shall be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of COVID-19 vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications, including at least three epinephrine prefilled syringes or autoinjectors, H1 antihistamine, blood pressure cuff, and stethoscope and timing device to assess pulse.

IX. Immunities

State Law. Iowa law provides that a health care provider, hospital, clinic, pharmacy, health care facility, local board of health, public health agency, or other person or entity that distributes or administers vaccines shall not be civilly liable in any action based on a failure or refusal to distribute or administer a vaccine to any person if the failure or refusal to distribute or administer the vaccine was consistent with the terms of the Vaccine Shortage Order. Iowa Code section 139A.8A(2)

Iowa law contains immunity provisions protecting persons, corporations, and other legal entities, and employees and agents of such persons, corporations, and other legal entities who provide medical care or assistance in good faith under the direction of the Department of Public Health during a public health disaster. Iowa Code § 135.147.

A qualified person, health care provider, hospital, health care facility, and any other person, corporation, or other legal entity or employee or agent of any such person, corporation, or entity administering COVID-19 vaccine in compliance with this Order in good faith is acting at the request of and under the direction of the Iowa Department of Public Health for purposes of the immunity provisions of Iowa Code section 135.147.

Federal Law. Federal law contains immunity provisions under the PREP Act, which provides that covered persons are immune from suit and liability under state and federal law with respect to all claims for loss caused by, arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the administration to or the use by an individual of a covered countermeasure. 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6d(a)(1). The Secretary of Health and Human Services has issued Declarations pursuant to the PREP Act which identify COVID-19 as a public health emergency and classify COVID-19 vaccines as covered countermeasures. With respect to the administration or use of a COVID-19 vaccine, “covered persons” include licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense countermeasures under the law of the State in which the COVID-19 vaccine was prescribed, administered, or dispensed. 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6d(i)(8).

XII. Effective date

This Order shall provide authorization for COVID-19 vaccination administered from the date of this Order through the duration of the state of public health disaster emergency unless sooner terminated or modified by subsequent order of the Department.



Caitlin Pedati, MD, MPH, FAAP
Medical Director and State Epidemiologist
Iowa Department of Public Health

December 30, 2020
Date