

Healthcare Providers Who May Administer COVID-19 Vaccines in Washington State Based on State Law and Federal Guidance

Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services used his authority under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to add additional categories of qualified people authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration: [Amended PREP Act Declaration](#).

The list of who can now administer COVID-19 vaccines in Washington State can be found on the DOH [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration webpage](#).

New Federal Authorization for Additional Vaccinators

The new PREP Act authorization, regardless of state law, allows for the following healthcare providers (with current and previously active licenses within the past five years¹) to prescribe, order, and administer COVID-19 vaccines (please note, many of these provider types could already administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Washington state – please see the list above):

- Dentists
- Emergency medical technicians (advanced or intermediate EMTs)
- Midwives
- Nurses
 - Advanced practice registered nurses (APRN)
 - Registered nurses (RN)
 - Licensed practical nurses (LPN)
- Optometrists
- Paramedics
- Pharmacists, pharmacy interns
- Physicians
- Physician assistants
- Podiatrists
- Respiratory therapists
- Veterinarians

The authorization also extends the authority for certain healthcare students in the above professions to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Prior to administering vaccines under this new authorization, a provider must meet minimum standards, such as training and observation. More information about HHS's authorization, including the prerequisites to administering COVID-19 vaccines, can be found here: [Fact Sheet](#)

If Washington state law already allows a healthcare provider type to prescribe, dispense, or administer vaccines and places less restrictive requirements on the provider type than HHS, then the provider can prescribe, dispense, or administer vaccines pursuant to the less restrictive state law requirements.

becoming a Vaccine Provider in Washington State

Any provider interested in receiving allocations of COVID-19 vaccine and authorized under law to vaccinate in Washington State is welcome to enroll in the federal COVID-19 vaccine program. Enrollment is a requirement of the CDC, and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is coordinating this enrollment process for providers in Washington State. Through the enrollment process, providers will be asked to sign and meet [all applicable requirements \(or conditions of use\) as set forth in the CDC's COVID-19 vaccination provider agreement](#) and any other federal requirements that apply to the administration of COVID-19 vaccine(s). To learn more about provider enrollment in Washington and to get started, visit [our website](#).

becoming a Volunteer

Any provider who is interested administering vaccines in support of an enrolled provider's vaccination effort is not required to enroll in the COVID-19 vaccine program. If a provider or student wants to register with the Department of Health as a volunteer and be notified as opportunities become available, please sign up on the [WAserv Volunteer Registry](#) or contact waserv@doh.wa.gov with questions.

More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [current COVID-19 situation in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee's proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

A person's race/ethnicity or nationality does not, itself, put them at greater risk of COVID-19. However, data are revealing that communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This is due to the effects of racism, and in particular, structural racism, that leaves some groups with fewer opportunities to protect themselves and their communities. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Share only accurate information to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)

Have more questions? Call our COVID-19 Information hotline: **1-800-525-0127**

Monday – 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday and [observed state holidays](#), 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact a health care provider.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 ([Washington Relay](#)) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

¹ Washington State Department of Health Secretary Umair Shah has issued his own PREP Act [authorization](#) for people to administer COVID-19 vaccines if they have inactive or expired Washington licenses that were active at some point since July 1998. Secretary Shah’s authorization is a valid alternative pathway for people holding licenses that went inactive or expired in the last five years to administer vaccines. They can choose which requirements they would like to meet. For people whose licenses went inactive or expired more than five years ago, Secretary Shah’s authorization is their only pathway to be able to administer vaccines other than by reactivating their license.