



Administering Vaccinations by HHS Guidance

This guidance authorizes both qualified pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns/externs acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist to administer to FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed COVID-19 vaccines to persons ages three or older and to administer FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed ACIP-recommended vaccines to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule.

You may use immunization protocols that were in place before this document. The ordering physician will be the prescriber. Pharmacy Technicians are not allowed to immunize under prescriber protocol.

Per the recent HHS guidance for *pharmacists* immunization, the following requirements are in place:

- A pharmacist must have a Mississippi pharmacist license to practice pharmacy in the state including providing immunizations.
- The qualified supervising pharmacist must comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the jurisdiction in which he or she administers vaccines, including informing the patient's primary care provider when available and submitting the required immunization information to the State or local immunization information system (vaccine registry). The MIIX System through the Mississippi Department of Health.
- The supervising qualified pharmacist must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to ordering the vaccination to be administered by the qualified pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern/extern.
- Two hours of continuing education on vaccinations are required if vaccine training occurred more than one year ago.
- The pharmacist must be currently certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- **The pharmacist is the ordering prescriber, not the prescriber from a previous protocol.**

The HHS recently ordered that pharmacy technicians have the authority to administer the COVID-19 vaccine, with a pharmacist's supervision, during the ongoing pandemic.

The Mississippi Board of Pharmacy's current regulations require that licensed professionals administer vaccines; however, upon recognizing the Executive Order, we have recommendations to emphasize or add:

- The Executive Order allows for the following:
 - The pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern/extern must be registered with the Board of Pharmacy.
 - A pharmacist MUST supervise the qualified pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern/extern.
 - The qualified pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern/extern must complete a practical training program that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). This training program must include a hands-on injection technique and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines.
 - The pharmacy technician must be currently certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- The Mississippi Board of Pharmacy Technician (one pharmacist to three technicians) ratio will still be enforced.

The Executive Order allows pharmacy technicians to administer immunizations **ONLY** for COVID-19 to persons age three or older and vaccines to persons aged three through 18.

The Board recommends that a training file is kept on each technician participating in the vaccination program. Compliance agents will check to ensure each technician has the proper certification and training required to perform immunizations.