

Executive Office

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S-308, Sacramento, CA 95834
P (800) 952-5210 | www.dca.ca.gov



Order Waiving Restrictions on Optometrists Relating to Ordering and Administering COVID-19 Vaccines

On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a [State of Emergency](#) to exist in California as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization as a result of a broader spread of COVID-19.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order [N-39-20](#), during the State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs may waive any statutory or regulatory professional licensing requirements and amend scopes of practice pertaining to individuals licensed pursuant to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, including optometrists.

Accordingly, the Director waives Business and Professions Code section 3041 to the extent it prohibits licensed optometrists from independently ordering and administering COVID-19 vaccines that are approved or authorized by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to persons 16 years of age or older and, in cases involving a severe allergic reaction, epinephrine or diphenhydramine by injection, subject to the following conditions:

- The optometrist completes an immunization training program endorsed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education that, at a minimum, includes hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines, and maintains that training;
- The optometrist successfully completes the required COVID-19 training programs prescribed by the California Department of Public Health at the following website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/COVIDTraining-Non-Traditional.aspx>;

- The optometrist is certified in basic life support;
- The optometrist complies with all state and federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including providing documentation to the patient's primary care provider and entering information in the

appropriate immunization information system designated by the immunization branch of the State Department of Public Health; and,

- The subject vaccine is administered in accordance with any applicable FDA emergency use authorization or license.

Optometrists acting within the scope of this Order may independently order and administer to persons 16 years of age or older any COVID-19 vaccines that are approved or authorized by the FDA, as specified, and may also order and administer epinephrine or diphenhydramine by injection for the treatment of a severe allergic reaction.

This order is effective immediately but may be amended as circumstances require.

Dated: February 11, 2021

Signature on File

Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director