

Executive Office

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Order Waiving Restrictions On Medical Assistants 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 professional licensing requirements and amend scopes of practice in Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, and any accompanying regulations.

Accordingly, for medical assistants that are trained pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1366.1 to administer medications by injection, the Director waives Business and Professions Code section 2069, to the extent it prohibits such individuals from 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, without the specific authorization and supervision of a physician and surgeon, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified nurse midwife.

The waiver is subject to the following conditions:

- The medical assistant administers the subject vaccine, epinephrine, or diphenhydramine, as applicable, in association with a State, local, or institutional COVID-19 vaccination effort;
- The medical assistant has documentation of an observation period by a currently-practicing healthcare professional experienced in administering intramuscular injections, and for whom administering vaccinations is in their ordinary scope of practice, who confirms competency of the medical assistant in preparation and administration of the subject COVID-19 vaccines;
- The medical assistant administers the subject vaccine, epinephrine, or diphenhydramine, as applicable, under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified

nurse midwife, who is physically present at the site of the administration and while the vaccine, epinephrine, or diphenhydramine is administered.

- The medical assistant 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 medical assistant's supervisor complies with all applicable federal and state recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including providing documentation to the patient's primary care provider, as applicable, and enters information in the appropriate immunization information system designated by the immunization branch of the State Department of Public Health.
- The subject vaccine is administered in accordance with any applicable FDA emergency use authorization or license.

Medical assistants acting within the scope of the Order may administer COVID-19 vaccines and epinephrine or diphenhydramine by injection, as specified. Supervising physicians and surgeons, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or certified nurse midwives, as applicable, may supervise medical assistants acting within the scope of the Order without providing a patient-specific written order or standing order to the medical assistant. Supervising physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or certified nurse midwives, as applicable, may supervise medical assistants acting within the scope of this Order without a written delegation of supervision from a physician and surgeon, and without a practice agreement or standardized operating procedure that includes instructions for providing specific authorization for administration.

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

Dated: March 30, 2021

Signature on File

Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director