

Illinois Department of Public Health

Guidance for Designated Vaccinators

Authorizing Licensed Pharmacists, Dentists, EMTs -Intermediate, EMTs-Paramedic and Certain Medical, Nursing, and Pharmacy Students to Administer Vaccines for Immunization Against Seasonal Influenza and 2009 H1N1 Influenza

Effective Date: October 14, 2009

A. Authority

This guidance is issued pursuant to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's "Proclamation to Invoke Emergency Powers to Modify Professional License and Certification Statutes and Regulations to Provide for Medical Assessment, Screening, and Treatment, and Any Other Disaster Relief," and the Illinois Department of Public Health's "Proclamation to Modify the Professional Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Technicians," both dated October 14, 2009.

B. Purpose

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305/7), the Governor of the State of Illinois has issued a proclamation declaring that a threat of a public health emergency related to the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus exists. The goal of the Governor's Proclamation is to expedite the administration of influenza vaccines so large numbers of people can be vaccinated in a short period of time.

The Governor's Proclamation allows the secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to issue proclamations to modify the scopes of practice for licensed professionals. Both IDFPR and IDPH issued proclamations to modify the type and number of health care professionals under their respective jurisdictions who may administer influenza vaccines; however, the proclamations do not require members of these professions to participate in the administration of vaccines. This guidance specifies parameters of vaccine administration in detail and will be updated as necessary.

These proclamations require a health care professional or medical, nursing or pharmacy student administering vaccines to be properly trained and supervised. The person administering the vaccines must comply with the relevant proclamation and the prescriber's order or prescription with respect to proper storage, handling and return of the vaccines, administration recordkeeping, responses to adverse events, and safe and appropriate administration of vaccines. In addition, the vaccines must be administered under an order or prescription of a practitioner authorized to prescribe vaccines. Health professionals responsible for overseeing an immunization clinic have the right to determine individuals they will allow to administer vaccines in their clinic and may require vaccinators to have additional training or competency evaluation (e.g., just-in-time), beyond what is described in this guidance, to assure the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccine in their clinic.

This document outlines:

- Requirements for the authorization, training and professional documentation that must be maintained by health care professionals (pharmacists, dentists, EMTs-intermediate and EMTs-paramedic) and medical, nursing and pharmacy students, who may administer vaccine under a proclamation.
- Required elements of vaccine administration training programs for these health care professionals and medical and nursing students.
- Documentation requirements for training programs on influenza vaccine administration.
- Documentation that must be issued and available to verify the successful completion of required training by these health care professionals.
- Information and links to the guidance and requirements for vaccine ordering, storage, provision of information and documentation, and vaccine administration.

C. Authorization, Training and Documentation Requirements for Health Care Professionals, Medical Students and Nursing Students

The following guidelines specify the standards pursuant to a proclamation that licensed pharmacists, dentists, EMTs-intermediate and EMTs-paramedic, and medical, nursing and pharmacy students must satisfy in order to administer vaccine for the prevention of influenza. Health care professionals responsible for overseeing an immunization clinic have the right to determine individuals they will allow to administer vaccines in their clinic and may require vaccinators to have additional training or competency evaluation (e.g., just-in-time) beyond what is described in these guidelines, to assure the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccine.

Pharmacists

IDFPR Secretary's Authorization: The IDFPR Proclamation authorizes, but does not require, a pharmacist to administer vaccine to persons 9 years of age or older (lowered from 14 years of age) for the prevention of influenza under an order or prescription of a practitioner authorized to prescribe vaccines, provided that the pharmacist:

- 1) Currently is licensed by IDFPR to practice pharmacy in Illinois and is in good standing¹; has successfully completed an education program of Accreditation Council on Pharmacy Education, or a similar health authority or professional body approved by IDFPR on the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccine; and demonstrated competence to administer vaccines upon completion of that training.
- 2) Maintains official documentation of successful completion of required training issued by the training program/sponsor.
- 3) Can present documentation of completion of required training, as well as his/her license to practice pharmacy in Illinois, upon request of the IDFPR, IDPH, a patient who is being vaccinated by the pharmacist, or from an administrator/health professional responsible for determining the qualifications of a pharmacist who wishes to administer vaccinations as part of a vaccine

¹ A license that is in good standing, is current, and is not on disciplinary status of probation, suspension or revocation.

- administration program or clinic.
- 4) Working at a site where an IDPH Provider Agreement is in effect.

EMTs -Intermediate and EMTs-Paramedic

IDPH Director's Authorization: EMTs-Intermediate and EMTs-Paramedic are currently authorized to administer certain medications intravenously, intramuscularly and subcutaneously under the IDPH Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System regulations and the EMS System Treatment Protocols approved by the IDPH Office of Preparedness and Response Division of Emergency Medical Services and under the supervision of a EMS medical director. They also are trained in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum to administer such medications. The IDPH Proclamation authorizes, but does not require, an EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic, licensed by IDPH, to administer vaccine for the prevention of influenza in accordance with EMS protocols issued for this purpose and under the supervision of their EMS medical director, provided the EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic:

- 1) Currently is licensed by the IDPH Division of EMS at the EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic level and is in good standing.
- 2) Successfully completed a training program provided by his/her EMS system, under the oversight of his/her medical director and based on training standards provided by IDPH Division of EMS on the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccine, and where the medical director has determined that the EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic has demonstrated competence to administer vaccines upon completion of that training.
- 3) Maintains official documentation of successful completion of required training which has been issued by his/her EMS system.
- 4) Can present documentation of the required training, as well as his/her EMT-Intermediate or EMT Paramedic certification issued by IDPH EMS upon the request of IDPH, a patient/person who is being vaccinated by the EMT-Intermediate or the EMT-Paramedic, or from an administrator/health professional responsible for determining the qualifications of an EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic who wishes to administer vaccinations under the authorization of the EMS system medical director as part of a vaccine administration program or clinic.

As specified above, vaccination performed by EMTs-Intermediate and EMTs-Paramedic must be under the authorization of their EMS medical director. The EMS medical director must be responding to a request for assistance from a certified local health department (LHD) or hospital. If requested by a certified LHD, an EMS medical director may, but is not required, to organize a vaccine administration program for the vaccination of EMS, fire and law enforcement personnel. If requested by a hospital and approved by the local health department, an EMS medical director may, but is not required, to organize a vaccine administration program for vaccination of EMS personnel. In all other situations, EMTs-Intermediate and EMTs-Paramedic must provide vaccinations in the context of a certified LHD or hospital vaccination clinic. A provider agreement signed by the EMS medical director is required when the EMS medical director organizes vaccination administration programs.

Dentists

IDFPR Director's Authorization: Neither the prescribing nor the administration of vaccines is within the defined scope of practice of dentists licensed to practice in Illinois. However, the IDFPR Proclamation

authorizes, but does not require, a dentist to administer vaccine for the prevention of influenza under an order or prescription of a practitioner authorized to prescribe vaccine, provided the dentist is in good standing², and:

- 1) Administers influenza vaccines under the auspices of a vaccine administration program of a licensed health care facility, visiting nurse agency, public health or government agency, or other public health or professional organization recognized by IDPH.
- 2) Successfully completed an education program offered by a licensed health care facility, public health agency, accredited pharmacy or medical school, or sponsored by IDPH, or other public health or professional organization recognized by IDFPR, on the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccine, and demonstrates proficiency in administering vaccines consistent with completion of that training program.
- 3) Maintains official documentation of successful completion of required training issued by the training program/sponsor.
- 4) Prepared to present such documentation, as well as his/her license to practice dentistry in Illinois, upon the request of IDFPR, IDPH, a patient/person who is being vaccinated, or from an administrator/health professional responsible for determining the qualifications of a dentist who wishes to administer vaccinations as part of a vaccine administration program or clinic.

Dentists are not permitted to administer vaccinations outside of a vaccination clinic or vaccine administration program of a licensed health care facility, visiting nurse agency, public health or government agency, or other public health or professional organization recognized by IDPH for which there is an IDPH Provider Agreement in effect.

Nursing, Pharmacy and Medical Students

IDFPR Director's Authorization: Medical, nursing and pharmacy education programs provide training in the safe, appropriate and effective administration of vaccines. The IDFPR Proclamation authorizes, but does not require, nursing students, pharmacy students or third- and fourth-year medical students, who are determined to be qualified by their nursing, pharmacy or medical school to administer vaccine for the prevention of influenza under an order or prescription of a practitioner authorized to prescribe the vaccine, provided that the medical, nursing or pharmacy student:

- 1) Currently is enrolled in an approved or accredited nursing, pharmacy or medical school located within Illinois and has received approval of his/her school to participate in a specific influenza vaccination program after the faculty has determined the student has demonstrated proficiency on the safe, appropriate and effective administration of vaccines.
- 2) Can provide such documentation, as well as his/her student identification upon request of the IDFPR, IDPH, a patient/person who is being vaccinated by the medical or nursing or pharmacy student, or from an administrator/health professional who is responsible for determining the qualifications of a student who wishes to administer influenza vaccinations as part of a vaccine administration program or clinic.
- 3) Received both theoretical education and psychomotor instruction/practice with regard to appropriate techniques, procedures for administering vaccines.
- 4) Maintains official documentation of successful competency evaluation from his/her school.

² A license that is in good standing, is current, and is not on disciplinary status of probation, suspension, or revocation.

- 5) Administers influenza vaccines under the supervision of a faculty member or a licensed nurse, licensed physician assistant, licensed physician or a licensed pharmacist certified immunization provider.
- 6) Administers influenza vaccines under the auspices of an immunization program of a licensed health care facility; licensed pharmacy; visiting nurse agency; public health or government agency; accredited/approved medical, nursing or pharmacy school; or other public health or professional organization recognized by IDPH at a practice site designated by the student's nursing, pharmacy or medical school **for which there is an IDPH Provider Agreement in effect.**

In settings where a medical, nursing or pharmacy student is vaccinating under the supervision of a pharmacist, the student shall not vaccinate individuals less than 9 years of age.

D. Required Elements of Programs to Train Health Care Professionals (Pharmacists, Dentists, EMTs-Intermediate and EMTs-Paramedic) in the Safe, Appropriate and Effective Administration of Influenza Vaccines

Curricula for the training of health professionals in the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccine shall contain, at a minimum, content pertaining to:

- 1) Nature of immunization and influenza vaccines, including injectable and nasal spray vaccines
- 2) Patient education and use of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)
- 3) Screening for appropriateness of and contraindications to immunization
- 4) Priority groups for vaccination
- 5) Vaccine storage and handling
- 6) Safe and appropriate administration of injectable and live attenuated influenza vaccine
- 7) Indications for the evaluation of, and response to, medical emergencies, and the administration of medications to treat such emergencies
- 8) Recognition and reporting of adverse events
- 9) Recordkeeping

E. Documentation Requirements for Influenza Vaccine Administration Training Programs

The sponsor of a training program in the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccine established pursuant to the above reference proclamations shall keep the following records for a period of three years. Records shall be furnished to IDFPR and/or IDPH upon request.

- 1) Course description
- 2) Faculty
- 3) Date of the training
- 4) Location of the training
- 5) Roster of attendees
- 6) Continuing education credits, if applicable

All participants must be provided with a written certification of successful completion and

attendance which includes:

- 1) Name and address of the training organization/sponsor
- 2) Participant's name, address and professional license/certification number
- 3) A brief statement of the subject matter
- 4) Date and location of the training program
- 5) Signature and title of a qualified representative of the training organization attesting to the proficiency of the participant in the safe, appropriate and effective administration of influenza vaccines, injectable and/or nasal administration of influenza vaccine(s).
- 6) Number of continuing education credits issued, if applicable.

F. Additional Information

IDPH's protocols for vaccine management:

http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/vaccine/vaccine_management.

Protocols for standing orders for vaccines:

<http://www.immunize.org/standingorders/>."

General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2006 (CDC):

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5515.pdf>

Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2009 (CDC):

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5808.pdf>

Use of Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2009 (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5810.pdf>

Additional information for health professionals providing vaccines:

http://www.immunize.org/printmaterials/topic_administer.asp

http://www.eziz.org/pages/eziz_training.html

IDPH updates:

www.ready.illinois.gov.

Questions concerning vaccine administration, training and management should be directed to the IDPH Immunization Section at 217-785-1455.