



Office of the Secretary

Eighth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency

Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID–19

ACTION: Notice of amendment.

SUMMARY: The Secretary issues this amendment pursuant to section 319F–3 of the Public Health Service Act to clarify and expand the authority for certain Qualified Persons authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer covered countermeasures under section VI of this Declaration.

DATE: This amendment is effective as of [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: L. Paige Ezernack, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20201; 202-260-0365, paige.ezernack@hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to issue a Declaration to provide liability immunity to certain individuals and entities (Covered Persons) against any claim of loss caused by, arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the manufacture, distribution, administration, or use of medical countermeasures (Covered Countermeasures), except for claims involving “willful misconduct” as defined in the PREP Act. Under the PREP Act, a Declaration may be amended as circumstances warrant.

The PREP Act was enacted on December 30, 2005, as Public Law 109–148, Division C, § 2. It amended the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, adding section 319F–3, which addresses liability immunity, and section 319F–4, which creates a compensation program. These sections are codified at 42 U.S.C. 247d–6d and 42 U.S.C. 247d–6e, respectively. Section 319F–3 of the

PHS Act has been amended by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA), Public Law 113–5, enacted on March 13, 2013, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116–136, enacted on March 27, 2020, to expand Covered Countermeasures under the PREP Act.

On January 31, 2020, the former Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency pursuant to section 319 of the PHS Act, 42 U.S.C. 247d, effective January 27, 2020, for the entire United States to aid in the response of the nation’s health care community to the COVID–19 outbreak. Pursuant to section 319 of the PHS Act, the Secretary renewed that declaration effective on April 26, 2020, July 25, 2020, October 23, 2020, January 21, 2021, April 21, 2021 and July 20, 2021.

On March 10, 2020, former Secretary Azar issued a Declaration under the PREP Act for medical countermeasures against COVID–19 (85 FR 15198, Mar. 17, 2020) (the Declaration). On April 10, the former Secretary amended the Declaration under the PREP Act to extend liability immunity to covered countermeasures authorized under the CARES Act (85 FR 21012, Apr. 15, 2020). On June 4, the former Secretary amended the Declaration to clarify that covered countermeasures under the Declaration include qualified countermeasures that limit the harm COVID–19 might otherwise cause. (85 FR 35100, June 8, 2020). On August 19, the former Secretary amended the declaration to add additional categories of Qualified Persons and amend the category of disease, health condition, or threat for which he recommended the administration or use of the Covered Countermeasures. (85 FR 52136, August 24, 2020). On December 3, 2020, the former Secretary amended the declaration to incorporate Advisory Opinions of the General Counsel interpreting the PREP Act and the Secretary’s Declaration and authorizations issued by the Department’s Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health as an Authority Having Jurisdiction to respond; added an additional category of qualified persons under Section V of the Declaration; made explicit that the Declaration covers all qualified pandemic and epidemic products as defined under the PREP Act; added a third method of

distribution to provide liability protections for, among other things, private distribution channels; made explicit that there can be situations where not administering a covered countermeasure to a particular individual can fall within the PREP Act and the Declaration's liability protections; made explicit that there are substantive federal legal and policy issues and interests in having a unified whole-of-nation response to the COVID-19 pandemic among federal, state, local, and private-sector entities; revised the effective time period of the Declaration; and republished the declaration in full. (85 FR 79190, December 9, 2020). On February 2, 2021, the Acting Secretary Norris Cochran amended the Declaration to add additional categories of Qualified Persons authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines that are covered countermeasures under the Declaration (86 FR 7872, February 2, 2021). On February 16, 2021, the Acting Secretary amended the Declaration to add additional categories of Qualified Persons authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines that are covered countermeasures under the Declaration (86 FR 9516, February 16, 2021) and on February 22, 2021, the Department filed a notice of correction to the February 2 and February 16 notices correcting effective dates stated in the Declaration, and correcting the description of qualified persons added by the February 16, 2021 amendment. (86 FR 10588, February 22, 2021). On March 11, 2021, the Acting Secretary amended the Declaration to add additional Qualified Persons authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer covered countermeasures under the Declaration. (86 FR 14462 March 16, 2021).

Secretary Xavier Becerra now amends section V of the Declaration to revise subsections (d) and (f) to clarify that qualified pharmacy technicians are Qualified Persons covered by the Declaration, and to expand the scope of authority for qualified pharmacy technicians to administer seasonal influenza vaccines to adults within the state where they are authorized to practice and for interns to administer seasonal influenza vaccines to adults consistent with other terms and conditions of the Declaration.

Accordingly, subsection V(d) authorizes:

(d) A State-licensed pharmacist who orders and administers, and pharmacy interns and qualified pharmacy technicians who administer (if the pharmacy intern or technician acts under the supervision of such pharmacist and the pharmacy intern or technician is licensed or registered by his or her State board of pharmacy),¹ (1) vaccines that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule or (2) seasonal influenza vaccine administered by qualified pharmacy technicians and interns that the ACIP recommends to persons aged 19 and older according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule; or (3) FDA authorized or FDA licensed COVID -19 vaccines to persons ages three or older. Such State-licensed pharmacists and the State-licensed or registered interns or technicians under their supervision are qualified persons only if the following requirements are met:

- i. The vaccine must be authorized, approved, or licensed by the FDA;
- ii. In the case of a COVID–19 vaccine, the vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's COVID–19 vaccine recommendation(s);
- iii. In the case of a childhood vaccine, the vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule;

¹ Some states do not require pharmacy interns to be licensed or registered by the state board of pharmacy. As used herein, "State-licensed or registered intern" (or equivalent phrases) refers to pharmacy interns authorized by the state or board of pharmacy in the state in which the practical pharmacy internship occurs. The authorization can, but need not, take the form of a license from, or registration with, the State board of pharmacy. Similarly, states vary on licensure and registration requirements for pharmacy technicians. Some states require certain education, training, and/or certification for licensure or registration; others either have no prerequisites for licensure or registration or do not require licensure or registration at all. As used herein, to be a "qualified pharmacy technician," pharmacy technicians working in states with licensure and/or registration requirements must be licensed and/or registered in accordance with state requirements; pharmacy technicians working in states without licensure and/or registration requirements must have a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) certification from either the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or National Healthcareer Association. *See* [Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf), OASH, Oct. 20, 2020 at 2, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021).

- iv. In the case of seasonal influenza vaccine administered by qualified pharmacy technicians and interns, the vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule;
- v. In the case of pharmacy technicians, the supervising pharmacist must be readily and immediately available to the immunizing qualified pharmacy technician;
- vi. The licensed pharmacist must have completed the immunization training that the licensing State requires for pharmacists to order and administer vaccines. If the State does not specify training requirements for the licensed pharmacist to order and administer vaccines, the licensed pharmacist must complete a vaccination training program of at least 20 hours that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) to order and administer vaccines. Such a training program must include hands on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines;
- vii. The licensed or registered pharmacy intern and qualified pharmacy technician must complete a practical training program that is approved by the ACPE. This training program must include hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines;
- viii. The licensed pharmacist, licensed or registered pharmacy intern and qualified pharmacy technician must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;²

² This requirement is satisfied by, among other things, a certification in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation by an online program that has received accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the ACPE, or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. The phrase "current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation," when used in the September 3, 2020 or October 20, 2020 OASH authorizations, shall be interpreted the same way. See [Guidance for Licensed Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines and Immunity under the PREP Act, OASH, Sept. 3, 2020](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf), available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [Guidance for PREP Act](#)

- ix. The licensed pharmacist must complete a minimum of two hours of ACPE-approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education during each State licensing period;
- x. The licensed 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, submitting the required immunization information to the State or local immunization information system (vaccine registry), complying with requirements with respect to reporting adverse events, and complying with requirements whereby the person administering a vaccine must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine;
- xi. The licensed pharmacist must inform his or her childhood-vaccination patients and the adult caregiver accompanying the child of the importance of a well-child visit with a pediatrician or other licensed primary care provider and refer patients as appropriate; and
- xii. The licensed pharmacist, the licensed or registered pharmacy intern and the qualified pharmacy technician must comply with any applicable requirements (or conditions of use) as set forth in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 vaccination provider agreement and any other federal requirements that apply to the administration of COVID-19 vaccine(s).

Further, the initial phrase of subsection V(f) is revised to state authorize "Any healthcare professional or other individual who holds an active license or certification permitting the person to prescribe, dispense, or administer vaccines under the law of any State as of the effective date

of this amendment, or a pharmacist or pharmacy intern as authorized under the section V(d) of this Declaration....”

Description of This Amendment by Section

Section V. Covered Persons

Under the PREP Act and the Declaration, a “qualified person” is a “covered person.” Subject to certain limitations, a covered person is immune from suit and liability under Federal and State law with respect to all claims for loss caused by, arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the administration or use of a covered countermeasure if a declaration under the PREP Act has been issued with respect to such countermeasure. “Qualified person” includes (A) a licensed health professional or other individual who is authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense such countermeasures under the law of the State in which the countermeasure was prescribed, administered, or dispensed; or (B) “a person within a category of persons so identified in a declaration by the Secretary” under subsection (b) of the PREP Act. 42 U.S.C. 247d–6d(i)(8)

By this amendment to the Declaration, the Secretary clarifies and expands the authorization for a category of persons who are qualified persons under section 247d–6d(i)(8)(B). First, the amendment clarifies that qualified pharmacy technicians are authorized to administer Childhood vaccinations and COVID-19 vaccinations that are Covered Countermeasures under section VI of this Declaration. The Department has authorized qualified pharmacy technicians to administer these vaccines under section V(a) of the Declaration through Guidance issued by the Assistant Secretary for Health.³ This amendment adds qualified pharmacy technicians to section V(d) of the Declaration, to clarify that these healthcare professionals are authorized subject to the conditions stated in that subsection. In addition, the amendment expands the authorization for qualified pharmacy technicians and interns to

³ [Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf), OASH, Oct. 20, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf> (last visited June 17, 2021).

administer seasonal influenza vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist to persons aged 19 and older consistent with ACIP recommendations. The Secretary anticipates that there will be a need for the adult population to receive both COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccines throughout the 2021-2022 influenza season. Health risks may increase for individuals who contract seasonal influenza concurrently with COVID-19, thus expanding the scope of authorized vaccinators for seasonal influenza lessens the harm otherwise caused by COVID-19.

While influenza incidence was lower than anticipated last fall and winter, the same cannot be assumed for the 2021-2022 flu season, as states have largely lifted the community mitigation measures previously in place at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Seasonal influenza has the potential to inflict significant burden and strain on the U.S. healthcare system in its own right; and in conjunction with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a spike in influenza cases could overwhelm healthcare providers. Like the vaccination against COVID-19, the vaccination against influenza requires many people to be vaccinated within a short period of time, potentially creating a surge on the system. Concern also remains regarding the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants and their potential to cause disease both among vaccinated and unvaccinated populations. It is yet to be determined if COVID-19 vaccine boosters will be recommended; however, if boosters become necessary, allowing pharmacy interns and technicians to administer both COVID-19 vaccines and influenza vaccines would allow states maximum flexibility in limiting potential impacts of both illnesses. ACIP also recently voted unanimously in favor of COVID-19 and influenza vaccine co-administration.^{4,5} Like COVID-19 vaccines, influenza vaccines are administered as intramuscular (IM) injections, and would require minimal, if any, additional training to administer, and would not place any undue training burden on providers.

⁴ <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acip/93283>

⁵ <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2021/06/24/acip-flu-rabies-dengue-062421>

As qualified persons, these qualified pharmacy technicians and interns will be afforded liability protections in accordance with the PREP Act and the terms of this amended Declaration. Second, to the extent that any State law that would otherwise prohibit these healthcare professionals who are a “qualified person” from prescribing, dispensing, or administering COVID-19 vaccines or other Covered Countermeasures, such law is preempted. On May 19, 2020, the Office of the General Counsel issued an advisory opinion concluding that, because licensed pharmacists are “qualified persons” under this declaration, the PREP Act preempts state law that would otherwise prohibit such pharmacists from ordering and administering authorized COVID-19 diagnostic tests.⁶ The opinion relied in part on the fact that the Congressional delegation of authority to the Secretary under the PREP Act to specify a class of persons, beyond those who are authorized to administer a covered countermeasure under State law, as “qualified persons” would be rendered a nullity in the absence of such preemption. This opinion is incorporated by reference into this declaration. Based on the reasoning set forth in the May 19, 2020 advisory opinion, any State law that would otherwise prohibit a member of any of the classes of “qualified persons” specified in this declaration from administering a covered countermeasure is likewise preempted. In accordance with section 319F-3(i)(8)(A) of the Public Health Service Act, a State remains free to expand the universe of individuals authorized to administer covered countermeasures within its jurisdiction under State law.

The plain language of the PREP Act makes clear that there is preemption of state law as described above. Furthermore, preemption of State law is justified to respond to the nation-wide public health emergency caused by COVID-19 as it will enable States to quickly expand the vaccination workforce with additional qualified healthcare professionals where State or local

⁶ Department of Health and Human Services General Counsel Advisory Opinion on the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, May 19, 2020, available at: <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-advisory-opinion-hhs-ogc.pdf> / (last visited Jan. 24, 2021). See also, Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel Advisory Opinion for Robert P. Charrow, General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, January 12, 2021, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opinions/attachments/2021/01/19/2021-01-19-prep-act-preemption.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021).

requirements might otherwise inhibit or delay allowing these healthcare professionals to participate in the COVID-19 countermeasure program.

Amendments to Declaration

Amended Declaration for Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act Coverage for medical countermeasures against COVID–19.

Section V of the March 10, 2020 Declaration under the PREP Act for medical countermeasures against COVID–19, as amended April 10, 2020, June 4, 2020, August 19, 2020, as amended and republished on December 3, 2020, and as amended on February 2, 2021, and as amended March 11, 2021, is further amended pursuant to section 319F–3(b)(4) of the PHS Act as described below. All other sections of the Declaration remain in effect as republished at 85 FR 79190 (December 9, 2020).

1. Covered Persons, section V, delete in full and replace with:

V. Covered Persons

42 U.S.C. 247d–6d(i)(2), (3), (4), (6), (8)(A) and (B)

Covered Persons who are afforded liability immunity under this Declaration are “manufacturers,” “distributors,” “program planners,” “qualified persons,” and their officials, agents, and employees, as those terms are defined in the PREP Act, and the United States. “Order” as used herein and in guidance issued by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health⁷ means a provider medication order, which includes prescribing of vaccines, or a laboratory order, which includes prescribing laboratory orders, if required. In addition, I have determined that the following additional persons are qualified persons:

⁷ See [Guidance for Licensed Pharmacists, COVID–19 Testing, and Immunity Under the PREP Act](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/authorizing-licensed-pharmacists-to-order-and-administer-covid-19-tests.pdf), OASH, Apr. 8, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/authorizing-licensed-pharmacists-to-order-and-administer-covid-19-tests.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [Guidance for Licensed Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns Regarding COVID–19 Vaccines and Immunity under the PREP Act](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf), OASH, Sept. 3, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021).

(a) Any person authorized in accordance with the public health and medical emergency response of the Authority Having Jurisdiction, as described in Section VII below, to prescribe, administer, deliver, distribute or dispense the Covered Countermeasures, and their officials, agents, employees, contractors and volunteers, following a Declaration of an Emergency, as that term is defined in Section VII of this Declaration;⁸

(b) Any person authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense the Covered Countermeasures or who is otherwise authorized to perform an activity under an Emergency Use Authorization in accordance with Section 564 of the FD&C Act;

(c) Any person authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense Covered Countermeasures in accordance with Section 564A of the FD&C Act;

(d) A State-licensed pharmacist who orders and administers, and pharmacy interns and qualified pharmacy technicians who administer (if the pharmacy intern or technician acts under the supervision of such pharmacist and the pharmacy intern or technician is licensed or registered by his or her State board of pharmacy),⁹ (1) vaccines that the Advisory Committee on

⁸ See, e.g., [Guidance for Licensed Pharmacists, COVID-19 Testing, and Immunity Under the PREP Act](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/authorizing-licensed-pharmacists-to-order-and-administer-covid-19-tests.pdf), OASH, Apr. 8, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/authorizing-licensed-pharmacists-to-order-and-administer-covid-19-tests.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for COVID-19 Screening Tests at Nursing Homes, Assisted-Living Facilities, Long-Term-Care Facilities, and other Congregate Facilities](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-coverage-for-screening-in-congregate-settings.pdf), OASH, Aug. 31, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-coverage-for-screening-in-congregate-settings.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [Guidance for Licensed Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines and Immunity under the PREP Act](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf), OASH, Sept. 3, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf), OASH, Oct. 20, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [PREP Act Authorization for Pharmacies Distributing and Administering Certain Covered Countermeasures](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-authorization-pharmacies-administering-covered-countermeasures.pdf), Oct. 29, 2020, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-authorization-pharmacies-administering-covered-countermeasures.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021) (collectively, OASH PREP Act Authorizations). Nothing herein shall suggest that, for purposes of the Declaration, the foregoing are the only persons authorized in accordance with the public health and medical emergency response of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

⁹ Some states do not require pharmacy interns to be licensed or registered by the state board of pharmacy. As used herein, “State-licensed or registered intern” (or equivalent phrases) refers to pharmacy interns authorized by the state or board of pharmacy in the state in which the practical

Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule or (2) seasonal influenza vaccine administered by qualified pharmacy technicians and interns that the ACIP recommends to persons aged 19 and older according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule; or (3) FDA authorized or FDA licensed COVID -19 vaccines to persons ages three or older. Such State-licensed pharmacists and the State-licensed or registered interns or technicians under their supervision are qualified persons only if the following requirements are met:

- i. The vaccine must be authorized, approved, or licensed by the FDA;
- ii. In the case of a COVID–19 vaccine, the vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's COVID–19 vaccine recommendation(s);
- iii. In the case of a childhood vaccine, the vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule;
- iv. In the case of seasonal influenza vaccine administered by qualified pharmacy technicians and interns, the vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule;
- v. In the case of pharmacy technicians, the supervising pharmacist must be readily and immediately available to the immunizing qualified pharmacy technician;

pharmacy internship occurs. The authorization can, but need not, take the form of a license from, or registration with, the State board of pharmacy. Similarly, states vary on licensure and registration requirements for pharmacy technicians. Some states require certain education, training, and/or certification for licensure or registration; others either have no prerequisites for licensure or registration or do not require licensure or registration at all. As used herein, to be a “qualified pharmacy technician,” pharmacy technicians working in states with licensure and/or registration requirements must be licensed and/or registered in accordance with state requirements; pharmacy technicians working in states without licensure and/or registration requirements must have a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) certification from either the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or National Healthcareer Association. *See* [Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf), OASH, Oct. 20, 2020 at 2, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021).

- vi. The licensed pharmacist must have completed the immunization training that the licensing State requires for pharmacists to order and administer vaccines. If the State does not specify training requirements for the licensed pharmacist to order and administer vaccines, the licensed pharmacist must complete a vaccination training program of at least 20 hours that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) to order and administer vaccines. Such a training program must include hands on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines;
- vii. The licensed or registered pharmacy intern and qualified pharmacy technician must complete a practical training program that is approved by the ACPE. This training program must include hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines;
- viii. The licensed pharmacist, licensed or registered pharmacy intern and qualified pharmacy technician must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;¹⁰

¹⁰ This requirement is satisfied by, among other things, a certification in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation by an online program that has received accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the ACPE, or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. The phrase “current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation,” when used in the September 3, 2020 or October 20, 2020 OASH authorizations, shall be interpreted the same way. See [Guidance for Licensed Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines and Immunity under the PREP Act, OASH, Sept. 3, 2020](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf), available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing, OASH, Oct. 20, 2020](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf), available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021).

- ix. The licensed pharmacist must complete a minimum of two hours of ACPE-approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education during each State licensing period;
- x. The licensed 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, submitting the required immunization information to the State or local immunization information system (vaccine registry), complying with requirements with respect to reporting adverse events, and complying with requirements whereby the person administering a vaccine must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine;
- xi. The licensed pharmacist must inform his or her childhood-vaccination patients and the adult caregiver accompanying the child of the importance of a well-child visit with a pediatrician or other licensed primary care provider and refer patients as appropriate; and
- xii. The licensed pharmacist, the licensed or registered pharmacy intern and the qualified pharmacy technician must comply with any applicable requirements (or conditions of use) as set forth in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 vaccination provider agreement and any other federal requirements that apply to the administration of COVID-19 vaccine(s).

(e) Healthcare personnel using telehealth to order or administer Covered Countermeasures for patients in a state other than the state where the healthcare personnel are licensed or otherwise permitted to practice. When ordering and administering Covered Countermeasures by means of telehealth to patients in a state where the healthcare personnel are not already permitted to practice, the healthcare personnel must comply with all requirements for ordering and administering Covered Countermeasures to patients by means of telehealth in the state where the healthcare personnel are permitted to practice. Any state law that prohibits or effectively prohibits such a qualified person from ordering and administering Covered

Countermeasures by means of telehealth is preempted.¹¹ Nothing in this Declaration shall preempt state laws that permit additional persons to deliver telehealth services;

(f) Any healthcare professional or other individual who holds an active license or certification permitting the person to prescribe, dispense, or administer vaccines under the law of any State as of the effective date of this amendment, or a pharmacist or pharmacy intern as authorized under the section V(d) of this Declaration, who prescribes, dispenses, or administers COVID-19 vaccines that are Covered Countermeasures under section VI of this Declaration in any jurisdiction where the PREP Act applies, other than the State in which the license or certification is held, in association with a COVID-19 vaccination effort by a federal, State, local Tribal or territorial authority or by an institution in the State in which the COVID-19 vaccine covered countermeasure is administered, so long as the license or certification of the healthcare professional has not been suspended or restricted by any licensing authority, surrendered while under suspension, discipline or investigation by a licensing authority or surrendered following an arrest, and the individual is not on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the Office of Inspector General, subject to: (i) documentation of completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 (CDC) Vaccine Training Modules¹² and, for healthcare providers who are not currently practicing, documentation of an observation period by a currently practicing healthcare professional experienced in administering intramuscular injections, and for whom administering intramuscular injections is in their ordinary scope of practice, who confirms competency of the healthcare provider in preparation and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine(s) to be administered;

¹¹ See, e.g., [Advisory Opinion 20-02 on the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act and the Secretary's Declaration under the Act](https://www.bhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/bhs-guidance-documents/advisory-opinion-20-02-bhs-ogc-prep-act.pdf), May 19, 2020, available at <https://www.bhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/bhs-guidance-documents/advisory-opinion-20-02-bhs-ogc-prep-act.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021).

¹² See [COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training.html), available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training.html>

(g) Any member of a uniformed service (including members of the National Guard in a Title 32 duty status) (hereafter in this paragraph “service member”) or Federal government, employee, contractor, or volunteer who prescribes, administers, delivers, distributes or dispenses a Covered Countermeasure. Such Federal government service members, employees, contractors, or volunteers are qualified persons if the following requirement is met: the executive department or agency by or for which the Federal service member, employee, contractor, or volunteer is employed, contracts, or volunteers has authorized or could authorize that service member, employee, contractor, or volunteer to prescribe, administer, deliver, distribute, or dispense the Covered Countermeasure as any part of the duties or responsibilities of that service member, employee, contractor, or volunteer, even if those authorized duties or responsibilities ordinarily would not extend to members of the public or otherwise would be more limited in scope than the activities such service member, employees, contractors, or volunteers are authorized to carry out under this declaration; and

(h) The following healthcare professionals and students in a healthcare profession training program subject to the requirements of this paragraph:

1. Any midwife, paramedic, advanced or intermediate emergency medical technician (EMT), physician assistant, respiratory therapist, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist or veterinarian licensed or certified to practice under the law of any state who prescribes, dispenses, or administers COVID-19 vaccines that are Covered Countermeasures under section VI of this Declaration in any jurisdiction where the PREP Act applies in association with a COVID-19 vaccination effort by a State, local, Tribal or territorial authority or by an institution in which the COVID-19 vaccine covered countermeasure is administered;

2. Any physician, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, practical nurse, pharmacist, pharmacy intern, midwife, paramedic, advanced or intermediate EMT, respiratory therapist, dentist, physician assistant, podiatrist, optometrist, or veterinarian who has held an active license or certification under the law of any State within the last five years, which is

inactive, expired or lapsed, who prescribes, dispenses, or administers COVID-19 vaccines that are Covered Countermeasures under section VI of this Declaration in any jurisdiction where the PREP Act applies in association with a COVID-19 vaccination effort by a State, local, Tribal or territorial authority or by an institution in which the COVID-19 vaccine covered countermeasure is administered, so long as the license or certification was active and in good standing prior to the date it went inactive, expired or lapsed and was not revoked by the licensing authority, surrendered while under suspension, discipline or investigation by a licensing authority or surrendered following an arrest, and the individual is not on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the Office of Inspector General;

3. Any medical, nursing, pharmacy, pharmacy intern, midwife, paramedic, advanced or intermediate EMT, physician assistant, respiratory therapy, dental, podiatry, optometry or veterinary student with appropriate training in administering vaccines as determined by his or her school or training program and supervision by a currently practicing healthcare professional experienced in administering intramuscular injections who administers COVID-19 vaccines that are Covered Countermeasures under section VI of this Declaration in any jurisdiction where the PREP Act applies in association with a COVID-19 vaccination effort by a State, local, Tribal or territorial authority or by an institution in which the COVID-19 vaccine covered countermeasure is administered;

Subject to the following requirements:

- i. The vaccine must be authorized, approved, or licensed by the FDA;
- ii. Vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's COVID-19 vaccine recommendation(s);
- iii. The healthcare professionals and students must have documentation of completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules and, if applicable, such additional training as may be required by the State, territory,

locality, or Tribal area in which they are prescribing, dispensing, or administering COVID-19 vaccines;

- iv. The healthcare professionals and students must have 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 healthcare provider or student in preparation and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine(s) to be administered and, if applicable, such additional training as may be required by the State, territory, locality, or Tribal area in which they are prescribing, dispensing, or administering COVID-19 vaccines;
- v. The healthcare professionals and students must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;¹³
- vi. The healthcare professionals and students 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, submitting the required immunization information to the State or local immunization information system (vaccine registry), complying with requirements with respect to reporting adverse events, and complying with requirements whereby the person administering a

¹³ This requirement is satisfied by, among other things, a certification in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation by an online program that has received accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the ACPE, or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. The phrase "current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation," when used in the September 3, 2020 or October 20, 2020 OASH authorizations, shall be interpreted the same way. See [Guidance for Licensed Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines and Immunity under the PREP Act, OASH, Sept. 3, 2020](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf), available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021); [Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing, OASH, Oct. 20, 2020](https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf), available at <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/prep-act-guidance.pdf> (last visited Jan. 24, 2021).

vaccine must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine; and

- vii. The healthcare professionals and students comply with any applicable requirements (or conditions of use) as set forth in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID–19 vaccination provider agreement and any other federal requirements that apply to the administration of COVID– 19 vaccine(s).

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to affect the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, including an injured party’s ability to obtain compensation under that program. Covered countermeasures that are subject to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program authorized under 42 U.S.C. 300aa–10 et seq. are covered under this Declaration for the purposes of liability immunity and injury compensation only to the extent that injury compensation is not provided under that Program. All other terms and conditions of the Declaration apply to such covered countermeasures.

2. Effective Time Period, section XII, delete in full and replace with:

Liability protections for any respiratory protective device approved by NIOSH under 42 CFR part 84, or any successor regulations, through the means of distribution identified in Section VII(a) of this Declaration, begin on March 27, 2020 and extend through October 1 , 2024.

Liability protections for all other Covered Countermeasures identified in Section VI of this Declaration, through means of distribution identified in Section VII(a) of this Declaration, begin on February 4, 2020 and extend through October 1 , 2024.

Liability protections for all Covered Countermeasures administered and used in accordance with the public health and medical response of the Authority Having Jurisdiction, as identified in Section VII(b) of this Declaration, begin with a Declaration of Emergency as that term is defined in Section VII (except that, with respect to qualified persons who order or

administer a routine childhood vaccination that ACIP recommends to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule, liability protections began on August 24, 2020), and last through (a) the final day the Declaration of Emergency is in effect, or (b) October 1, 2024, whichever occurs first.

Liability protections for all Covered Countermeasures identified in Section VII(c) of this Declaration begin on December 9, 2020 and last through (a) the final day the Declaration of Emergency is in effect. or (b) October 1 , 2024. whichever occurs first.

Liability protections for Qualified Persons under section V(d) of the Declaration who are qualified pharmacy technicians and interns to administer seasonal influenza vaccine to persons aged 19 and older begin on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Liability protections for Qualified Persons under section V(f) of the Declaration begin on February 2, 2021, and last through October 1, 2024.

Liability protections for Qualified Persons under section V(g) of the Declaration begin on February 16, 2021, and last through October 1, 2024.

Liability protections for Qualified Persons who are physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, or practical nurses under section V(h) of the Declaration begins on February 2, 2021 and last through October 1, 2024, with additional conditions effective as of March 11, 2021 and liability protections for all other Qualified persons under section V(h) begins on March 11, 2021 and last through October 1, 2024.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 247d–6d.

Dated: July 30, 2021

Xavier Becerra

Secretary,

Department of Health and Human Services

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