

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATEWIDE STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION**

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Pursuant to the authority contained in Iowa Code sections 135.11 (1) and 135.141(2)(b), (e), (h) I, Robert Kruse, M.D., hereby issue the following Standing Order for COVID-19 Vaccination (Order):

**I. Purpose**

This Order is intended to authorize qualified persons to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible individuals to reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. This Order is intended to provide authorization for COVID-19 vaccination which is not otherwise authorized through a treating health care provider, long term care facility medical director, or occupational health provider. This Order is intended to supplement and not supplant such existing authorization.

**II. Legal Authority**

The Governor of the State of Iowa issued a proclamation of public health disaster emergency on March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The state of public health disaster emergency was repeatedly extended and ultimately expired February 6, 2022. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 135.141(2), the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) is authorized to establish and coordinate activities, including the administration of vaccines, as necessary for recovery from a public health disaster. This Order is further authorized pursuant to the federal Public Health Emergency Declaration initially issued January 31, 2020, and subsequent renewals, and related legal authorities. This Order authorizes qualified persons to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible individuals.

**III. Definitions**

For purpose of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

“*ACIP*” means the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

“*COVID-19 vaccine*” or “*COVID-19 vaccination*” means a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through either an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or other FDA approval mechanism.

*“Eligible individual”* means an individual eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination pursuant to an FDA EUA or other FDA approval mechanism.

*“Qualified person”* means a person who has enrolled in the CDC COVID-19 vaccination program *and* is authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccine including: (1) a person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of the state of Iowa; or (2) a person authorized pursuant to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act to administer COVID-19 vaccine, including qualified pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist.

#### **IV. Authorization**

This Order authorizes a qualified person to administer COVID-19 vaccine to an eligible individual.

#### **V. Procedure**

A qualified person shall:

- A. Obtain informed consent from the eligible individual or their legal representative prior to administering COVID-19 vaccine.
- B. Assess eligible individuals based on COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer criteria, including age restrictions.
- C. Screen all eligible individuals for contraindications and precautions by utilizing CDC’s Pre-Vaccination Form for COVID-19 Vaccine.
- D. Provide the eligible individual or their legal representative a copy of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the COVID-19 vaccine or the Emergency Use Authorization or formal authorization fact sheet. Provide non-English speaking eligible individuals with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if available and preferred.
- E. Choose the needle gauge, needle length, and route of administration according to the ACIP General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization.
- E. Administer COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with the ACIP General

Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization and COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer guidance.

**VI. Reporting**

A qualified person shall document each eligible individual's vaccine administration information and follow up in the following places:

- A. Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS): All doses of COVID-19 vaccine must be recorded in IRIS within 24 hours of administration.
- B. Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine.
- C. Personal immunization record card: record the date of vaccination, the brand of COVID-19 vaccine administered and the name/location of the administering clinic. This card shall be provided to the vaccine recipient.

**VII. Management of Adverse Events**

Per the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement, COVID-19 vaccination providers are required to report adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination and should report clinically important adverse events even if it is undetermined if the vaccination caused the event. Vaccine manufacturers are required to report to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) all adverse events that come to their attention. VAERS reports should be submitted at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

**VIII. Medical Care**

A qualified person shall observe vaccine recipients after vaccination to monitor for the occurrence of immediate adverse reactions: persons with a history of any anaphylaxis for 30 minutes; all other persons for 15 minutes or as recommended by the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer. A qualified person shall be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of COVID -19 vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications, including at least three epinephrine prefilled syringes or autoinjectors, H1 antihistamine, blood pressure cuff, and stethoscope and timing device to assess pulse.

## **IX. Immunities**

Federal Law. Federal law contains immunity provisions under the PREP Act, which provides that covered persons are immune from suit and liability under state and federal law with respect to all claims for loss caused by, arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the administration to or the use by an individual of a covered countermeasure. 42

U.S.C. § 247d-6d(a)(1). The Secretary of Health and Human Services has issued Declarations pursuant to the PREP Act which identify COVID-19 as a public health emergency and classify COVID-19 vaccines as covered countermeasures. With respect to the administration or use of a COVID-19 vaccine, "covered persons" include licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense countermeasures under the law of the State in which the COVID-19 vaccine was prescribed, administered, or dispensed. 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6d(i)(8). State law also contains immunity provisions related to COVID-19, including Iowa Code chapter 686D (COVID-19 Related Liability).

## **XII. Effective date**

This Order shall provide authorization for COVID-19 vaccination administered from the date of this Order through December 31, 2023, unless sooner terminated or modified by subsequent order of the Department.



Robert Kruse, M.D.

Date: January 1, 2023