



March 29th, 2021

Guidance Regarding the Administration of Intramuscular Vaccines on Humans Pursuant to Federal Action under the PREP Act

On March 16, 2021, the federal government [amended](#) its [Declaration](#) regarding medical countermeasures against COVID-19 under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. Among other things, this amendment permits additional health care providers (including providers who have been previously active within the last five years and students currently engaged in education) to administer COVID-19 vaccines subject to certain conditions.

Many of the health care providers covered by the recent amendment are already authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines under Nebraska law or [previous amendments](#) to the federal government's PREP Act Declaration. However, optometrists, podiatrists, veterinarians, respiratory therapists, and dentists have new status to administer COVID-19 vaccines to humans under the March 16 amendment.

Consistent with the federal action to permit health care providers in these fields to administer COVID-19 vaccines, the Department does not intend to apply state limits on scope of practice against optometrists, podiatrists, veterinarians, respiratory therapists, and dentists who opt to use their new status to administer COVID-19 vaccines during the state of emergency in conformity with [federal requirements](#). These federal requirements are explained in more detail in the March 16 amendment, but include, among other things:

- authorization, approval, or licensing of the vaccine by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
- administration of the vaccine according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP's) COVID-19 vaccine recommendations;
- completion of certain training requirements;
- a period of observation by a currently practicing healthcare professional who has experience in administering intramuscular injections;
- possession of a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- compliance with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the jurisdiction in which they administer vaccines; and
- compliance with applicable requirements (or conditions of use) set forth in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 vaccination provider agreements and any other federal requirements applicable to the administration of COVID-19 vaccine(s).

Third-parties who decide, based on their own policies and procedures, to engage with health care providers covered by the March 13 amendment for purposes of the administration of COVID-19 vaccines during the state of emergency may do so.