NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NC State Health Director's Standing Order Authorizing Immunizing Pharmacists to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

Purpose: To reduce morbidity and mortality from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by vaccinating persons who meet the criteria authorized by the Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Policy: This standing order authorizes pharmacists licensed by the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy and practicing in the state of North Carolina to administer FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed COVID-19 vaccine(s) to eligible candidates as directed in the chart below. Immunizing pharmacists must meet qualifications listed in G.S. 90-85.3.

Eligible Vaccine Recipients	**Pfizer COVID Vaccine:** Individuals 16 years of age and older requesting COVID-19 vaccination. **Moderna COVID Vaccine:** Individuals 18 years of age and older requesting COVID-19 vaccination. In the situation of a vaccine shortage, priority should be given to populations in the current or prior prioritizations phase. Follow NC DHHS Guidance on Priority Populations.	
Procedure	**Prior** to administering vaccine, vaccine provider must: ● Screen for any vaccine contraindications/precautions using appropriate questionnaire and ensure no other vaccines have been administered in the last 14 days. ● Provide the vaccine recipient with a copy of the current federal Emergency Use Authorization Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers. ● Provide the v-safe information sheet to vaccine recipient/caregiver. ● Obtain informed consent for medical treatment prior to an individual being vaccinated, in accordance with G.S. 90-21.13.	
Product Selection[1]	**Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**	**Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine**

[1] COVID-19 vaccines are **not** interchangeable with each other or with other COVID-19 vaccine products. Both doses of the series should be completed with the same product.

Dose	The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is administered as a series of two doses (0.3 mL each), 3 weeks (21 days) apart.	The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is administered intramuscularly as a series of two doses (0.5 mL each) 1 month (28 days) apart.
Contraindications	History of a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine for both Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.	
Precautions	• History of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any other vaccine or injectable therapy • Moderate to severe acute illness	
Directions for Use[2]	Using aseptic technique, mix Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine with 0.9% sodium chloride diluent according to manufacturer's instructions. Inject 0.3 mL by intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle of the arm.	Using aseptic technique, withdraw 0.5 mL of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from the multi-dose vial and administer by intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle of the arm.
Reporting and Follow-Up	• Record COVID-19 vaccination in the pharmacy record within 24 hours and record all required data elements in the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS) or applicable reporting system as indicated by CDC agreement within 72 hours of vaccine administration. • Vaccine recipients and/or their legal representative must be provided with a personal vaccine record indicating the date of vaccination, product name/manufacturer, lot number, name/location of administering pharmacy, and when the recipient needs to return for the second dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. • Notify the vaccine recipients' primary care provider within 24 hours of vaccine administration.	
Emergency Protocol	• In accordance with ACIP's General Best Practices Guidance for Immunization, all individuals receiving a vaccine should be observed for at least 15 minutes following vaccination. Persons with a history	

[2] Appropriate needle gauge and needle length for vaccine administration can be found in the COVID-19 Vaccine Protocol.

	of anaphylaxis should be observed for 30 minutes. ● Vaccine providers shall be prepared to manage medical emergencies by having a written emergency medical protocol, as well as appropriate equipment and medications (e.g. epinephrine, diphenhydramine) in places where vaccines are provided. ● Report any vaccine administration errors (whether or not associated with an adverse event), serious adverse events (irrespective of attribution to vaccination), cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children and adults, or cases of COVID-19 that result in hospitalization following administration of the vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) (https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html) or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Approved by: __ _____ Date Signed: _12-27-20_____

Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, MD, MPH
NPI: 1760540421

This order is effective immediately upon signing and may be revised or revoked by the State Health Director according to his/her discretion. This order remains effective until the adjournment of the next regular session of the General Assembly
Legal Authority: SL 2020-3 (SB 704) 3D.3.(a)