



SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Professional Licensing

MARGARET W. BUSSE
Executive Director

MARK B. STEINAGEL
Division Director

April 10, 2024

Vaccine Administration Guidance document

In accordance with Utah Code §§ 58-17b-620; 58-17b-102(16), (17), (56), (58)(b) and (c); and 58-17b-502(1)(i) of Utah's Pharmacy Practice Act, this guidance document outlines the protocols and responsibilities for licensed Utah pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians engaged in vaccine administration.

This Vaccine Administration Guidance document has been established to facilitate the lawful administration of vaccines by licensed Utah pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians. The guidance document covers eligibility criteria, training requirements, vaccine administration, patient screening, adverse event management, and reporting obligations.

- A licensed Utah pharmacist may administer medications for a fee under this guidance document.
- A licensed Utah pharmacist may delegate vaccine administration to a licensed Utah pharmacy intern or pharmacy technician, provided the delegating pharmacist offers onsite, direct supervision to the delegate.
- Pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians are not permitted to delegate vaccine administration to another individual.

All personnel involved in medication administration, including pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians, must have completed the requisite training and continuing education in accordance with Utah Admin. Code §§ R156-17b-309 and R156-17b-621 of the Pharmacy Practice Act Rules.

Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians may administer vaccines according to guidelines established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or local or state health departments, taking into consideration indications and contraindications for all appropriate age groups. Vaccines may also be administered by a licensed Utah pharmacist pursuant to a prescription from a licensed prescriber.

Before administering a vaccine, the following steps must be taken:

The vaccine candidate or legal guardian should be questioned regarding the candidate's:

- a. Previous adverse events after immunization.
- b. Food or drug allergies.
- c. Current health conditions.
- d. Recent receipt of blood or antibody products.
- e. Immunosuppression.
- f. Pregnancy.
- g. Underlying diseases.

The administering or delegating pharmacist must review the vaccine and the vaccine candidate's screening information.

The vaccine candidate or legal guardian should be informed of the specific benefits and risks of the vaccine(s) offered and provided with the appropriate Vaccine Information Statement(s).

In the event of an adverse event following immunization, the following actions may be taken:

- a. Mild allergic reactions (including hives or itching) may be treated with oral Diphenhydramine at a dose of 1.25 mg/kg, with a maximum dose of 50 mg per dose.
- b. For suspected anaphylaxis, Epinephrine may be administered intramuscularly based on patient weight. Emergency Medical Services should be immediately contacted:
 - Epinephrine IM 0.3 mg for patients weighing over 30 kg.
 - Epinephrine IM 0.15 mg for patients weighing 15 - 30 kg.
 - Epinephrine IM 0.01 mg/kg for patients weighing less than 15 kg.
- c. If Emergency Medical Services have not arrived and symptoms persist, Epinephrine may be repeated up to every 5 minutes for up to 3 doses, depending on the patient's response.
- d. In the event of any medication administration for an adverse immunization reaction, pharmacy staff should call Emergency Medical Services or seek assessment by an on-site licensed independent practitioner.
- e. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation may be administered as needed.

For adverse events, the administering or delegating pharmacist must complete and submit a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form to the CDC, the undersigned licensed practitioner, and the patient's primary care practitioner, if known.

The pharmacy shall maintain and have readily available an emergency plan for adverse events, including:

- a. The phone number of local Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- b. The phone number of the undersigned licensed practitioner.
- c. The roles of the administering or delegating pharmacist, any administering pharmacy intern or pharmacy technician, and other participants.
- d. Dosing instructions for epinephrine and diphenhydramine as per this guidance document.

All pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians must report administered vaccines to the Utah State Immunization Information System (USIIS) electronic registry within one week of administration. Registration information for USIIS is found at <https://immunize.utah.gov/usiis-provider-facilities/>.

This Vaccine Administration Guidance document ensures compliance with Utah's Pharmacy Practice Act and promotes safe and effective vaccine administration by licensed pharmacy professionals.