



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

EMERGENCY ORDER

**PROTOCOL FOR ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN COVID-19 VACCINES
REVISED MARCH 9, 2021**

FROM: Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH, State Health Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Kanter, MD".

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ORDER
[Revised March 9, 2021 to include Janssen vaccine and to update attached Protocols]

PURPOSE/APPLICABILITY: To authorize certain medical professionals to administer the Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen COVID-19 vaccines by protocol in lieu of a patient-specific order from a physician or prescribing practitioner.

POLICY STATEMENT: The protocol authorized herein is intended to ensure the safety, efficacy, and increased provision of COVID-19 immunizations to meet the needs of the public welfare.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This Emergency Order will be initially effective only until May 1, 2021, but may be further extended by subsequent order of the State Health Officer. However, termination of the Public Health Emergency concerning COVID-19 originally declared by Governor John Bel Edwards in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 will result in the automatic termination of this Emergency Order.

RATIONALE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY:

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States. Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760, et seq., a state of public health emergency resulting from the outbreak of "coronavirus disease 2019" ("COVID-19") was initially declared to exist in the entire State of

Louisiana by Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, and was extended to the present date by subsequent declarations.

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech (hereinafter the “Pfizer vaccine”) received Emergency Use Authorization (“EUA”) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) on December 11, 2020. A COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna (hereinafter the “Moderna vaccine”) received an EUA from the FDA on December 18, 2020. A COVID-19 vaccine developed by Janssen Biotech, Inc. (hereinafter the “Janssen vaccine”) received an EUA from the FDA on February 27, 2021.

WHEREAS, the White House’s Operation Warp Speed (“OWS”) began sending limited shipments of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to Louisiana in late December, 2020, and the number of shipments is expected to drastically increase in the coming months as Pfizer and Moderna increase their output of the vaccines. OWS began sending shipments of the Janssen vaccine to Louisiana in the first week of March, 2021, and shipments are expected to quickly increase in the coming weeks and months.

WHEREAS, administering COVID vaccinations to as many Louisiana residents as possible as quickly as possible is vitally important. However, because the Pfizer and Moderna available vaccines require administration of two separate doses at two separate times, and because so many health professionals in the state are already overwhelmed dealing with COVID patients (in addition to dealing with everyday non-COVID issues), the state may experience a shortage in the number of authorized health professionals needed to quickly administer all doses of the vaccines as they are received from OWS. This is particularly true in the more rural parts of the state. As the number of OWS vaccine shipments increases in the coming months, this shortage may be expected to increase.

WHEREAS, allowing registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and pharmacists to administer the Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen vaccines pursuant to a Protocol will help reduce the above-described shortage and will free-up other medical resources.

WHEREAS, the SHO has determined that the any risks associated with allowing registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and pharmacists to administer the Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen vaccines as set forth herein is outweighed by the benefits of expanded timely administration of as many doses as possible.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by La. R.S. 40:1 *et seq.*, particularly La. R.S. 40:4(A)(13) and La. R.S. 40:5(A)(1) and (2), I, Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, do hereby issue the following emergency order:

Registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and pharmacists licensed in Louisiana (or licensed in another jurisdiction but allowed to practice in Louisiana pursuant to Executive Order or Proclamation of the Governor, temporary approval

by the appropriate Louisiana licensing board, or similar authority) are hereby authorized to administer the Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen COVID-19 vaccines pursuant to the respective Protocols for each attached to this EMERGENCY ORDER, without the need for an individualized patient-specific prescription or order from a physician or other prescribing practitioner.


The authorization granted herein applies only to RNs, LPNs, and pharmacists who are competent by virtue of education and/or clinical training to safely and effectively administer intramuscular deltoid injections.

Signed in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 9, 2021.



Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Concurrence:


DATE 3/11/21

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
LDH Secretary