



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**EMERGENCY ORDER**

**PROTOCOL FOR ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN COVID-19 VACCINES  
Louisiana National Guard (LANG) members**

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

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

**SUBJECT:** EMERGENCY ORDER

**PURPOSE/APPLICABILITY:** To authorize certain non-medical professional Louisiana National Guard (LANG) members 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, Moderna, and Janssen increase their output of the vaccines.

**WHEREAS**, administering COVID vaccinations to as many Louisiana residents as possible as quickly as possible is vitally important. However, because the currently 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 certain LANG members who are not licensed medical professionals 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 any risks associated with allowing LANG members meeting the criteria set forth below 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:

**A member of the Louisiana National Guard is hereby authorized to administer the Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen COVID-19 vaccines pursuant to the respective Protocols for each attached to this EMERGENCY ORDER, which must be followed in their entirety, without the need for an individualized patient-specific prescription or order from a physician or other prescribing practitioner, if the member meets all of the following criteria:**

- 1. The member is authorized to do so by the member’s Unit commander or The Adjutant General of the LANG;**

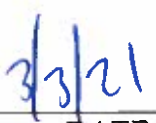

2. **The member holds a current American Red Cross Basic Life Support (BLS) card issued through the Military Training Network (MTN).**
3. **The member has successfully completed an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course approved by the Louisiana Department of Health, Bureau of EMS.**
4. **The member has successfully completed the CDC's online COVID-19 vaccine training course (Course No. WB4460).**
5. **The member has successfully completed the LANG Office of the State Surgeon's 1-day vaccination training, which is based on the minimum standards for 68W (Army Combat Medics) and includes instructions for safely and competently administering deltoid injections.**

Signed this 3rd day of March, 2021.



Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer

Concurrence:



Dr. Courtney N. Phillips  
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health