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JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO: 20-037 (REVISED)
**Authorization for Members of the Healthcare Provider Community
to Conduct COVID-19 Vaccination Administration**

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq, and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the Disaster Control Act, N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq., in the State of New Jersey for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Emergency was renewed by subsequent Executive Orders and remains in effect to date; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has been working expeditiously to develop, manufacture, and deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Pfizer and BioNTech; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2020, the FDA issued an EUA for a COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Moderna; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2021, the FDA issued an EUA for a COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Janssen Biotech, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson; and

WHEREAS, distribution and administration of the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine in the State began the week of December 13, 2020, distribution and administration of the Moderna vaccine in the State began the week of December 20, 2020 and distribution and administration of the Janssen Biotech vaccine in the State began week of March 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the FDA will authorize additional COVID-19 vaccines in 2021; and

WHEREAS, because the supply of COVID-19 vaccines is expected to increase over the coming months, it is necessary to ensure that there are an adequate number of health care providers in the State who can serve as vaccinators in order to keep up with the demand for vaccination and to avoid waste of unused vaccine; and

WHEREAS, under the declared public health emergency, the Commissioner of the Department of Health is empowered, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-12, to take all reasonable and necessary measures to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and apply proper controls and treatment for infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, under the declared public health emergency, the Commissioner of the Department of Health is empowered, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-18(a), “[t]o require in-State health care providers to assist in the performance of vaccination”; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 26:13-2, a “health care provider” is defined as any person who provides health care services; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the State had a sufficient number of COVID-19 vaccinators, the Department of Health issued Executive Directive No. 20-037 dated January 6, 2021, which authorized health care providers as defined by the Executive Directive to serve as vaccinators at any vaccination site established within the State; and

WHEREAS, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, 42 U.S.C. 247d-6d and 42 U.S.C. 247d-6e, provides the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with the authority to issue a declaration extending medical countermeasures that are needed to combat a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a declaration under the PREP Act for COVID-19 tests, drugs and vaccines; and

WHEREAS, since March 20, 2020, the Secretary has issued several amendments to the COVID-19 declaration, which expanded the categories of qualified persons and healthcare professionals who could serve as vaccinators; and

WHEREAS, because the State’s COVID-19 vaccine supply will increase and become more widely available over the coming months, there is a need to further expand the pool of COVID-19 vaccinators, consistent with the PREP Act; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to revise Executive Directive 20-037 to effectively respond to the public health emergency through the effective and timely vaccination of individuals living, working and studying in the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH PERSICHILLI, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health, pursuant to the powers afforded to me under the Emergency Health Powers Act, hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. For purposes of this Executive Directive, “COVID-19 vaccination sites” includes, but is not limited to, pop-up vaccination sites; mobile unit vaccination services; pharmacies; State, county, local and federal government vaccination sites; healthcare facilities; healthcare provider practices; and homebound vaccination services. The site must be operating under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Agreement.
2. For purposes of this Executive Directive, the following individuals are “health care providers” who may serve as COVID-19 vaccinators at any COVID-19 vaccination site established within the State, subject to the conditions set forth below:
 - a. Physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses who are licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey provided:
 - i. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that a physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who (1) is currently licensed and practicing in the State, (2) is experienced in administering intramuscular injections and (3) is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications, provides training to the health care provider referenced in paragraph 2(a) above by using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) “Training and Education” (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html>) and FDA COVID-19 vaccination guidance, and determines competencies of the health care provider before permitting him or her to act as a COVID-19 vaccinator. A health care provider’s vaccine knowledge, skills and competencies may be validated using training materials available through the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html> and the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competencies Assessment Form available through the website. The vaccination site must document that the provider successfully completed the training;
 - ii. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that the health care provider’s vaccination skills and knowledge are kept up to date; and
 - iii. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that any additional training, supervision or conditions that may be imposed by the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) through an Administrative Order are met.
 - b. Paramedic students provided:
 - i. The educational institution the paramedic student is attending determines the student has appropriate training, knowledge and competency in administering vaccines and provides documentation of same to the COVID-19 vaccination site intending to utilize the paramedic student;

- ii. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that a physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who (1) is currently licensed and practicing in the State, (2) is experienced in administering intramuscular injections and (3) is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications, provides training to the paramedic student by using the CDC “Training and Education” (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html>) and FDA COVID-19 vaccination guidance. The vaccination site must document that the paramedic student successfully completed the training;
 - iii. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that the paramedic student’s vaccination skills, knowledge and competency are kept up to date;
 - iv. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that a physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State, is experienced in intramuscular injections and is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications determines the competencies of the paramedic student, which includes an observation period, before permitting the paramedic student to vaccinate. The vaccination site must document the student’s knowledge, skills and competencies. A paramedic student’s vaccine knowledge, skills and competencies may be validated using training materials available through the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html> and the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competencies Assessment Form available through the website;
 - v. The paramedic student is currently certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and
 - vi. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State and is experienced with administering intramuscular injections supervises the paramedic student while he or she is serving as a vaccinator at the vaccination site.
- c. Paramedics who are certified to practice in the State of New Jersey provided:
- i. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that a physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is (1) currently licensed and practicing in the State, (2) is experienced in administering intramuscular injections and (3) is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications, provides training to the paramedic by using the CDC “Training and Education” (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html>) and FDA COVID-19 vaccination guidance. The vaccination site must document that the paramedic successfully completed the training;
 - ii. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State, is experienced in intramuscular injections and is proficient in

reconstitution and drawing of medications determines the competencies of the paramedic, which includes an observation period, before permitting the paramedic to vaccinate. The vaccination site must document the paramedic's skills, knowledge and competencies. A paramedic's vaccine knowledge, skills and competencies may be validated using training materials available through the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html> and the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competencies Assessment Form available through the website;

- iii. The paramedic is currently certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
 - iv. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that the paramedic's vaccination skills, knowledge and competencies are kept up to date; and
 - v. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State and is experienced with administering intramuscular injections supervises the paramedic while he or she is serving as a vaccinator at the vaccination site.
- d. Midwives, respiratory therapists, podiatrists, optometrists, veterinarians, and dentists who are licensed or certified to practice in the State of New Jersey provided:
- i. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that a physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who (1) is currently licensed and practicing in the State, (2) is experienced in administering intramuscular injections and (3) is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications, provides training to the healthcare provider by using the CDC "Training and Education" (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html>) and FDA COVID-19 vaccination guidance. The Vaccination site must document that the provider successfully completed the training;
 - ii. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State, is experienced in intramuscular injections and is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications determines the competencies of the provider, which includes an observation period, before permitting the provider to vaccinate. The vaccination site must document the provider's competencies. A health care provider's vaccine knowledge, skills and competencies may be validated using training materials available through the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html> and the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competencies Assessment Form available through the website;
 - iii. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that the health care provider's vaccination skills and knowledge are kept up to date; and

- iv. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State and is experienced with administering intramuscular injections supervises the provider while he or she is serving as a vaccinator at the vaccination site; and
 - v. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures any additional training, supervision or conditions that may be imposed by the DCA on the health care providers referenced in this paragraph through an Administrative Order are met.
- e. Pharmacists, ancillary healthcare personnel, such as pharmacy interns, pharmacy externs, and pharmacy technicians, and health care providers-in-training, subject to the training, supervision and/or conditions imposed by the DCA through an Administrative Order.
- f. Paramedics who currently hold active certifications under the law of any State other than New Jersey provided:
- i. The certification is in good standing with the certifying State(s) and was never surrendered while under suspension, discipline or investigation by the certifying State(s) or surrendered following an arrest, and the individual is not on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General;
 - ii. Either the paramedic or the paramedic's certifying State(s) submits to the Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), the Vaccinator Verification Form, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, prior to the paramedic commencing as a vaccinator at a vaccination site. The Vaccinator Verification form shall be emailed to OEMS at Reciprocity@doh.nj.gov;
 - iii. The vaccination site utilizing the paramedic ensures that the Vaccination Verification form set forth in paragraph f(ii) above was submitted to OEMS prior to the paramedic commencing as a vaccinator; advises OEMS by email at Reciprocity@doh.nj.gov of the date the paramedic will begin serving as a vaccinator at its site and promptly advises OEMS of any performance issues it experiences with the individual;
 - iv. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that a physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who (1) is currently licensed and practicing in the State, (2) is experienced in administering intramuscular injections and (3) is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications, provides training to the paramedic by using the CDC "Training and Education" (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html>) and FDA COVID-19 vaccination guidance. The Vaccination site must document that the paramedic successfully completed the training;
 - v. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State, is experienced in intramuscular injections and is proficient in

reconstitution and drawing of medications determines the competencies of the paramedic, which includes an observation period, before permitting the paramedic to vaccinate. The Vaccination site must document the paramedic's competencies. A paramedic's vaccine knowledge, skills and competencies may be validated using training materials available through the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html> and the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competencies Assessment Form available through the website;

- vi. The paramedic is currently certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
 - vii. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that the paramedic's vaccination skills, knowledge, and competencies are kept up to date;
 - viii. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State and is experienced with administering intramuscular injections supervises the paramedic while he or she is serving as a vaccinator at a vaccination site; and
 - ix. The paramedic shall only be permitted to serve as a vaccinator at a vaccination site and shall not provide any other professional services within the State.
- g. Paramedics who held active certifications under the law of any State within the last five (5) years, which are now inactive, expired or lapsed, provided:
- i. The certification was in good standing prior to the date it went inactive, expired or lapsed and was not revoked by a certifying State, surrendered while under suspension, discipline or investigation by a certifying State or surrendered following an arrest, and the individual is not on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General;
 - ii. Either the inactive, expired or lapsed paramedic or the paramedic's certifying State(s) submits to OEMS the Vaccinator Verification Form prior to the paramedic serving as a vaccinator at a vaccination site. The Vaccinator Verification form shall be emailed to OEMS at Reciprocity@doh.nj.gov;
 - iii. The vaccination site utilizing the expired, inactive or lapsed paramedic ensures that the paramedic provides OEMS with the Vaccinator Verification form set forth in paragraph g(ii) above prior to the paramedic serving as a vaccinator; advises OEMS by email at Reciprocity@doh.nj.gov of the date the expired, inactive or lapsed paramedic will begin serving as a vaccinator at its site and promptly advises OEMS of any performance issues it experiences with the individual;
 - iv. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that a physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who (1) is currently licensed and practicing in the State, (2) is experienced in administering intramuscular injections and (3) is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications, provides training to the paramedic by using the

- CDC “Training and Education” (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html>) and FDA COVID-19 vaccination guidance. The Vaccination site must document that the paramedic successfully completed the training;
- v. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State, is experienced in intramuscular injections and is proficient in reconstitution and drawing of medications determines the competencies of the paramedic, which includes an observation period, before permitting the paramedic to vaccinate. The vaccination site must document the paramedic’s competencies. A paramedic’s vaccine knowledge, skills and competencies may be validated using training materials available through the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/index.html> and the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competencies Assessment Form available through the website;
 - vi. The paramedic is currently certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
 - vii. The COVID-19 vaccination site ensures that the paramedic’s vaccination skills, knowledge and competencies are kept up to date;
 - viii. A physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State and is experienced with administering intramuscular injections supervises the paramedic while he or she is serving as a vaccinator; and
 - ix. The paramedic shall only be permitted to serve as a vaccinator at a vaccination site and shall not provide any other professional services within the State.
- h. Any health care professional licensed or certified by DCA, subject to approval by DCA and any training, supervision and/or conditions imposed by DCA through an Administrative Order.
3. For purposes of this Executive Directive, “supervision” means that at least one supervising physician, registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or pharmacist who is currently licensed and practicing in the State and is experienced with administering intramuscular injections is physically present at the vaccination site, able to respond to an emergency, and responsible for accuracy and safety with respect to the actions of the authorized health care providers referenced in paragraph 2 above.
 4. The health care provider is only authorized to vaccinate with COVID-19 vaccines that are approved or authorized by the FDA.
 5. All health care providers who serve as vaccinators shall comply with the requirements of the “New Jersey Interim COVID-19 Vaccination Plan,” as amended and supplemented.
 6. This Executive Director supersedes Executive Directive 20-037 issued on January 6, 2021.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is determined by me that an emergency no longer exists.



Judith Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner

May 24, 2021
Date