STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

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Order Waiving Restrictions on Pharmacy Technicians Relating to Administering COVID-19 Vaccines

On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization as a result of a broader spread of COVID-19.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-39-20, during the State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs may waive any statutory or regulatory professional licensing requirements and amend scopes of practice pertaining to individuals licensed pursuant to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, including pharmacy technicians.

Accordingly, the Director waives Business and Professions Code section 4115, subdivisions (a) and (c), and California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 1793 and 1793.2, to the extent those provisions prohibit pharmacy technicians from administering COVID-19 vaccines to persons three years of age or older that are approved or authorized by the federal Food and Drug Administration and, in cases involving a severe allergic reaction, epinephrine by injection, subject to the following conditions:

- The pharmacy technician's supervising pharmacist is authorized to independently initiate and administer the subject COVID-19 vaccine;
- The supervising pharmacist delegates to the pharmacy technician the task of administering the subject COVID-19 vaccine or epinephrine, as applicable;
- The supervising pharmacist maintains direct supervision and control of the pharmacy technician, as prescribed in Business and Professions Code section 4023.5;
- The pharmacy technician is certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- The pharmacy technician successfully completed at least six hours of a practical training program that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and includes hands-on injection technique, the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines, and an assessment of the pharmacy technician's injection technique;
- The subject vaccine is administered in accordance with any applicable United States Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorization;

- The supervising pharmacist complies with all applicable federal and state recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including providing documentation to the patient's primary care provider and entering information in the appropriate immunization registry; and,
- The pharmacy maintains a record of each vaccine administered by a pharmacy technician that identifies the pharmacy technician that administered the vaccine and the pharmacist that delegated and supervised the pharmacy technician when the vaccine was administered, and makes such records available to the California State Board of Pharmacy upon request.

Pharmacy technicians acting within the scope of this Order may administer COVID-19 vaccines and epinephrine by injection, as specified above.

This order is effective immediately but may be amended as circumstances require.

Dated: December 22, 2020

Signature on File

Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director