Julie Anderson
Commissioner

www.Commerce.Alaska.Gov

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

21-003

Vaccination Workforce Expands to Include Former Nurses and Physicians

Friday, February 5, 2021 (Juneau) – Alaska's COVID-19 vaccination effort will increase with retired physicians and nurses added to the list of those eligible to assist in vaccine delivery.

The federal PREP Act, as amended last week by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, adds categories of qualified persons authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines that are covered countermeasures under section VI of the declaration. Among those authorized by the PREP Act are:

- Physicians and nurses who have held an active license in good standing in any jurisdiction within the last five years, and
- Any healthcare provider currently in good standing and authorized in any state to administer vaccines.

Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns were authorized to vaccinate under a previous amendment to the PREP Act and are required to hold an Alaska license to do so.

"This is the shot in the arm Alaska needs to accelerate the state's assertive vaccination effort," **said Sara Chambers, director of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL)**, the division responsible for ensuring healthcare workers and other professionals are qualified to practice in the state. "State, federal, tribal, municipal, and private efforts to mass vaccinate have desperately needed an expanded workforce to deliver the vaccine quickly to Alaskans who are most at risk."

Health care providers who are not authorized by the PREP Act must be able to document completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules. For healthcare providers who are not currently practicing, documentation of an observation period by a currently practicing healthcare professional adequately experienced in vaccination who confirms competency of the healthcare provider in preparation and administration of the particular COVID-19 vaccine(s) to be administered is also required.

To help verify qualifications under the PREP Act, clinic coordinators can check the lists of vaccination providers on CBPL's COVID-19 webpage. However, they are not required to do so, and vaccine providers covered under the PREP Act will not need to receive a credential from the state. Clinics are urged to perform their own due diligence when utilizing volunteers who do not hold a current Alaska license that authorizes them to administer vaccines.

CBPL is a division within the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. CBPL's mission is to ensure that competent, professional, and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers. Visit professionallicense.alaska.gov for additional information about the professions requiring a license from CBPL to practice in Alaska. COVID-19 information for licensed professionals can be found at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-19Information.aspx.

###

Media Contact: Sara Chambers, sara.chambers@alaska.gov, (907) 465-2144