

## **AMENDED ORDER AUTHORIZING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER VACCINES TO PERSONS THREE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER**

The State of Oregon has been in the midst of an epidemic<sup>1</sup> related to COVID-19, since March of 2020. Currently, the state remains under a Governor declared emergency due to COVID-19. Executive Order (EO) 21-15.

The state is suffering from healthcare provider shortages, including shortages of those who can administer vaccinations. In addition to continuing the effort to get more Oregonians vaccinated against COVID-19, the influenza (flu) season is fast approaching. With schools back in session and the resumption of more in-person work and social activity in the state, it is likely there will be an increase in the spread of flu compared to the 2020-2021 season. Flu can cause severe illness and death, and widespread preventable illness could further tax the state's healthcare system. It is therefore important to stop and slow the spread of flu by getting as many people as possible vaccinated against it through ensuring widespread access and availability of vaccination services. By increasing the availability and uptake of flu vaccinations, in addition to COVID-19 vaccinations, we can diminish the effects on the healthcare system and reduce hospitalizations and deaths.

It is anticipated that in the coming months, the U.S. Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will authorize under an Emergency Use Authorization, the administration of at least one COVID-19 vaccine for children under the

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<sup>1</sup> An "epidemic" is defined as "the occurrence in a community or region of a group of similar conditions of public health importance that are in excess of normal expectancy and derived from a common or propagated source." ORS 431A.005(5). A "disease outbreak" is defined as "a significant or notable increase in the number of cases of a disease or other condition of public health importance." ORS 431A.005(4). An epidemic by definition then, is inclusive of a disease outbreak.


age of 12, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will recommend such a vaccination for these younger children.

Therefore, based on the authority provided to me under ORS 433.444, during the current outbreak and epidemic of COVID-19, I am authorizing the following:

1. Pharmacists licensed under ORS chapter 689, may administer COVID-19 vaccines to eligible persons who are three years of age or older, as authorized by the FDA and the CDC.
2. Pharmacists licensed under ORS chapter 689, may administer any FDA approved and CDC recommended influenza vaccine to persons who are three years of age or older.

This order remains in effect until January 1, 2023, unless terminated earlier or extended.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
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Rachael Banks, MBA  
Public Health Director

3/29/2022  
Date