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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

PH 4-2021
CHAPTER 333
OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

FILED
01/22/2021 10:05 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Waiving training requirements for registered formerly licensed health care practitioners to participate in vaccination activities

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/22/2021 THROUGH 07/20/2021

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 01/22/2021

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

The Governor has declared an emergency due to the public health threat posed by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and issued several Executive Orders with actions aimed to slow the spread of the virus and mitigate the public health impacts of the epidemic. The Governor issued a fifth extension of the state of emergency in December 2020, citing spiking in new cases of COVID-19 and increasing hospitalization rates. EO 20-67. An essential tool to addressing COVID-19 is the administration of the newly approved and distributed vaccines. However, Oregon needs more healthcare personnel qualified to assist in the administration of the vaccines to help meet vaccination goals. Registered health care provider volunteers, who have retired fewer than 10 years ago and their license or certification was in good standing at the time it of surrender, can help assist with vaccination but are required to complete certain training requirements prior to being activated and deployed to assist.

Specifically, the requirements for CPR/First Aid/AED, basic disaster life support and psychological first aid training prevent otherwise capable and eligible volunteers from supporting local and Tribal health authorities, hospitals and health systems with mass administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to Oregonians. In addition, continuing education requirements impose an additional burden. The burden of these trainings and continuing education is apparent in lengthy time requirements to complete courses; additionally, CPR/First Aid/AED certification requires in-person practical demonstration of skills in a classroom setting. In-person classes pose a risk to health and safety as well as pose a logistical challenge given pandemic social distancing guidance set by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Given the pressing need for volunteer health care providers to assist in vaccine administration, OHA is temporarily lifting the requirement for persons who were authorized to provide health care services within the last 10 years to complete first aid, basic disaster life support, psychological first aid, and continuing education training prior to being deployed to provide vaccination-related emergency health care services during the declared emergency.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

The Authority finds that failure to act promptly will result in serious prejudice to the public interest, the Authority, and all Oregonians who may be affected by the transmission of COVID-19. Failing to immediately adopt this rule prevents otherwise capable volunteers from supporting local and Tribal health authorities, hospitals and health systems with mass administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to Oregonians. This may further limit Oregon's ability to quickly and safely administer COVID-19 vaccinations, an essential tool in limiting the serious and deadly effects of the disease. These rules need to be adopted promptly so that these volunteers can be expeditiously deployed to assist with vaccination administration.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

Governor's Executive Orders available at <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/executive-orders.aspx>

ADOPT: 333-003-4000

RULE TITLE: Training Waiver During Declared Emergency for Vaccination-Related Emergency Health Care Services

RULE SUMMARY: Adopt OAR 333-003-4000: Waiving training requirements for persons registered under OAR 333-003-0117 when those individuals are activated and deployed to provide vaccination-related emergency health care services. Training requirements waived include first aid, basic disaster life support, psychological first aid, and continuing education requirements under OAR 333-003-0140(2)(b).

RULE TEXT:

(1) During an emergency declared under ORS 401.165 or a public health emergency declared under ORS 433.441, a person who is registered in accordance with OAR 333-003-0117 is not required to complete the following training prior to activation for providing vaccination-related emergency health care services:

- (a) First Aid that includes CPR and AED use;
- (b) Basic Disaster Life Support;
- (c) Psychological First Aid; and
- (d) Continuing education required under OAR 333-003-0140(2)(b).

(2) All other training requirements in OAR 333-003-0140 apply to registrants activated under section (1) of this rule.

(3) This rule does not apply to the registrants providing emergency health care services unrelated to vaccination.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 401.651 - 401.670, ORS 413.042, ORS 433.441

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 401.651 - 401.670, ORS 413.042, ORS 433.441