

[Federal Efforts to Grow the COVID-19 Vaccination Workforce Through the PREP Act](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently [issued](#) an amendment to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act Declaration. The amendment extends liability protections to specified health care professionals who may not usually administer vaccines in their scope of practice or who have recently expired licenses, and students of specified health care professions who administer COVID-19 vaccines. Under this authority, the following roles are eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccines anywhere in the U.S.:

- Health Professionals: dentists, emergency medical technicians (advanced or intermediate EMTs), midwives, nurses (advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, licensed practical/vocational nurses), optometrists, paramedics, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, physicians, physician assistants, podiatrists, respiratory therapists and veterinarians.
- Health care students: dental, emergency medical technicians (advanced or intermediate EMTs), medical, midwifery, nursing, optometry, paramedic, pharmacy, pharmacy intern, physician assistant, podiatry, respiratory therapy and veterinary.

Health professionals in the eligible roles must either hold a current license or certification in good standing in a U.S. jurisdiction, or have previously held a license or certification in good standing in a U.S. jurisdiction that has lapsed within the past five years. Health care students administering vaccines must be supervised by a currently practicing health professional experienced in administering intramuscular injections. All health care professionals and health care students practicing under PREP Act authority are required to complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules.

HHS is encouraging individuals wishing to become volunteer vaccinators to [register](#) through their state or territory's Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) registry. To access the most up-to-date national list of state registries for vaccine provider enrollment, visit NCSBN's [State Registries for Volunteer Vaccine Administrator Enrollment](#) webpage.