

IMMUNIZATIONS STATEWIDE PROTOCOL

Adopted by the Board 11/18/2021

Revised 5/18/2026

A. Introduction

Authorized pharmacists may order and administer immunizations as outlined in the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) § 43-15-10(24) and North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) § 61-01-14.

This protocol provides the authorized pharmacist the authority to prescribe and administer an immunization to any individual 3 years and older in accordance with the standard of care and scientific evidence. Pharmacists who administer vaccines under this protocol shall maintain a current copy of this protocol at each location where vaccines are administered. For the purpose of this protocol, the authorized pharmacist's order shall constitute a prescription.

B. Qualifications

An authorized pharmacist means a pharmacist who has successfully completed an appropriate study or training pertaining to the administration of drugs and maintains continuing competency according to the standard of care. (NDCC § 43-15-31.5 and NDAC § 61-04-11).

C. Delegation

An authorized pharmacist may delegate the administration of vaccines to an authorized pharmacy intern or a qualified pharmacy technician according to NDAC § 61-04-11. The pharmacist may also delegate the administration of vaccines to a healthcare professional authorized by their respective healthcare practice act.

D. Administration

Prior to any vaccine administration, the pharmacist shall provide to each recipient or the recipient's legal representative a copy of the most current Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) or other required informational fact sheet. The current VIS can be found on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website, www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis.

An authorized pharmacist shall screen for contraindications/precautions and assess a patient for appropriateness of receiving a vaccine prior to ordering and administering a vaccine pursuant to the statewide protocol. This may include consultation of the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS), health information network, or appropriate medical record.

The patient or parent/guardian if younger than 18 shall provide their verbal or written consent to the pharmacist prior to receiving the immunization(s).

E. Reporting

The Authorized Pharmacist or their designee must report any immunization ordered and administered to the NDIIIS within 14 days of administration.

The pharmacist shall report any adverse event that occurs following vaccine administration to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), even if it is unclear whether the event was caused by the vaccine. The pharmacist shall also notify the patient's primary care provider of any adverse events or reactions experienced by the patient. As a reference, one may refer to the VAERS government website to view the Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination, www.vaers.hhs.gov/resources/infoproviders.html.

F. Documentation

The prescribing pharmacist must maintain records of all immunizations ordered and administered through the statewide protocol. Record of immunization shall be maintained at least 5 years from date of administration.

G. Management of Adverse Events

Following vaccine administration, the pharmacist shall observe the patient for immediate adverse reaction(s) and the patient should be requested to remain in an observation area for a minimum of 15 minutes.

In the course of managing adverse events following immunization, the pharmacist shall follow the Immunization Action Coalition's Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions for the appropriate patient, which can be found at the website, www.immunize.org.

The authorized pharmacist shall maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or basic cardiac life support and have access to epinephrine and other supplies necessary to respond to a medical emergency related to vaccine administration.

H. Vaccine Safety

Pharmacists must comply with the Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and applicable state law and regulations regarding the storage and disposal of injection supplies and the disposal of, and prevention of exposure to, biological hazards.

Vaccine should be prepared and administered in accordance to infection control and minimize the risk for spread of disease. Safety needles or needle-free injection devices should be used to reduce the risk for injury. To prevent inadvertent needle-stick injuries, needles and syringes shall be discarded immediately after use in approved puncture-proof container, located in the same room as vaccine administration. Needles must not be recapped before being placed in the container.