



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20201211-00482-ALT (Health Alert)

RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide

Friday, December 11, 2020

SUBJECT: **CLARIFICATION:
COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment and
Healthcare Provider Vaccination**

Dear Colleagues,

It has come to our attention that the Health Alert Message that the Mississippi State Department released on December 8, 2020 has led to confusion regarding how healthcare personnel get vaccinated and how healthcare providers and facilities obtain COVID-19 vaccine to administer.

First, as a reminder, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that both 1) **health care personnel** and 2) **residents of long-term care facilities** be offered COVID-19 vaccine in the initial phase of the vaccination program. In Mississippi, the first allocations of vaccine are expected to be limited and will be prioritized for administration to frontline hospital staff at highest risk of contact to COVID-19 infected patients, and to residents and staff of long-term care facilities.

If your facility plans to administer COVID-19 vaccine, you must enroll as a COVID-19 provider.

For a healthcare personnel or healthcare facility to **administer vaccine** to priority groups, including healthcare staff, you must be enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine provider (see links below for information enroll as a COVID-19 provider*). This is how you will receive allocations of vaccine to administer to staff and priority groups.

Note: Based on current distribution plans, most healthcare providers and facilities will not need to purchase ultra-cold freezers for vaccine storage. Facilities scheduled to receive early allocations have already been made aware of the resources needed to store the vaccine.

Healthcare personnel are not required to enroll as COVID-19 providers to get vaccinated.

Individual healthcare providers and personnel do not have to be enrolled as COVID-19 vaccine providers to be vaccinated against COVID-19. All healthcare personnel (defined as all paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings



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who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials) will have opportunities to get vaccinated.

- MSDH is distributing vaccine to healthcare systems/hospitals for them to administer to front-line high priority staff first, then to all personnel as additional doses become available.
- MSDH is developing additional opportunities at County Health Departments and other settings that will be designated to vaccinate all healthcare personnel. Additional details will be provided as they are finalized.

Remember

If you want to administer vaccine, you need to be enrolled as a COVID-19 provider. However, healthcare providers do not need to be enrolled as a COVID-19 provider to get vaccinated. Stay tuned for additional details as they are available.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

*See the MSDH website for resources for COVID-19 vaccine providers and the Provider Agreement at <https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/static/14,0,71,975.html>. We encourage you to read the instructions and FAQs first; this will assist greatly in the completion of the agreement. If you have any questions, feel free to email covid19vaccine@msdh.ms.gov or call our office at 601-576-7751.



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20201211-00482-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00482
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



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Message Type:

Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).