



South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



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**ADMINISTRATION OF INFLUENZA AND COVID-19 VACCINES**  
**BY UNLICENSED PERSONNEL**

As South Carolina enters flu season, and with the expected release of a vaccine for COVID-19 in the near future, the Board of Medical Examiners expects a significant increase in the number of vaccines to be administered by medical personnel. Indeed, recognizing this increase, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary issued a series of declarations pursuant to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. These declarations allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer certain vaccinations provided they meet certain requirements, including appropriate training on intramuscular injection technique.

The DHHS declarations have prompted questions as to whether an unlicensed medical assistant may administer vaccines for influenza and, in the near future, COVID-19. The Board concludes that unlicensed medical assistants with the appropriate training and certification may administer pre-measured doses of influenza and/or Covid-19 vaccines if ordered by a physician who is physically present at the facility at the time the vaccine is administered. Appropriate training and certification includes current certification by the certifying boards of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), the National Center for Competency Testing (NAHP), the National Certification Medical Association (NCMA), or American Medical Technologists (AMT) and documented training in intramuscular injection. This guidance shall remain in effect for the duration of the Public Health State of Emergency, or until further declaration of the Board.