



## DCA Director Waivers Related to Ordering and Administering COVID-19 Vaccines

On March 30, 2021, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) issued the following waivers related to ordering and administering COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in connection with state, local, or institutional vaccination efforts:

- 1. For licensed midwives, physician assistants, respiratory care practitioners, and veterinarians,** [DCA-21-137](#) waives any statutory or regulatory provision in Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC) and the implementing regulations to the extent that such provision prohibits those licensed healthcare professionals from independently ordering and administering COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized by the FDA in connection with a state, local, or institutional COVID-19 vaccination effort. To qualify for the waiver, those licensed healthcare professionals must satisfy requirements specified in the waiver order. Licensed midwives and veterinarians cannot presently order and administer COVID-19 vaccines; however, the waiver order would enable them to do so independently, consistent with the federal declaration. Physician assistants and respiratory care practitioners can currently administer COVID-19 vaccines with limitations; however, the waiver order would remove existing limitations and enable physician assistants and respiratory care practitioners to order and administer vaccines independently.
- 2. For persons with an expired, inactive, or lapsed healthcare license,** including physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, pharmacists, midwives, respiratory care practitioners, dentists, physician assistants, podiatrists, optometrists, or veterinarians, [DCA-21-140](#) waives any statutory or regulatory provision in BPC, Division 2 and the implementing regulations to the extent that such provision prohibits those individuals from independently ordering and administering COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized by the FDA in connection with a state, local, or institutional vaccination effort if, among other things, they satisfy the following conditions: (1) the individual held an active license or certification within the last five years; and, (2) the license was in active and good standing prior to becoming inactive, expired or lapsed, and it was not revoked or surrendered, and the individual is not on the Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals/Entities. Expired, inactive, or lapsed licensees cannot currently order and administer COVID-19 vaccines; however, the waiver would enable them to do so, subject to the conditions discussed above.
- 3. For healthcare students,** including medical, nursing, pharmacist, midwife, physician assistant, respiratory care practitioner, dentist, podiatry, optometry, and veterinarian students, [DCA-21-139](#) waives any statutory or regulatory provision in BPC, Division 2 and the implementing regulations to the extent that such provision prohibits them from administering COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized by the FDA in connection with a state, local, or institutional vaccination effort if, among other things, they are: (1) appropriately trained, as determined by the student's educational program; and, (2) supervised when giving vaccines by a practicing healthcare professional experienced in giving intramuscular injections. Some healthcare students can already order and/or administer vaccines. Dentist, midwife, optometry, and veterinarian students currently cannot administer COVID-19 vaccines; however, the waiver would allow them to do so, subject to the conditions discussed above.