

Questions and Answers
The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021

- Q.1. Why does the government require amendments to *The Disease Control Regulations*?**
- A.1. Among other things, *The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021* enables the establishment of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan for the province.
- Q.2. When will *The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021* come into force?**
- A.2. *The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021* came into force on February 24, 2021.
- Q.3. What is the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan?**
- A.3. The plan lays out the framework for delivering the vaccines across the province including the training required, who can administer COVID-19 vaccines, and the clinic settings that will provide vaccines.
- Q.4. Will those individuals who provide immunizations under the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan receive vaccinations prior to being engaged as immunizers?**
- A.4. Saskatchewan's vaccine delivery plans for the first phase has focused on immunizing priority populations who are at a higher risk of exposure to the virus or more at risk of serious illness - health care workers, elderly residents in care homes, seniors over 70 in all communities, and all residents over 50 in remote northern communities.

Additional health care workers included in priority sequencing for Phase 1 as [announced February 16, 2021](#) include:

- Individuals directly involved in delivering COVID-19 immunizations in Phase 2 including physicians (up to 2,600), pharmacists (up to 1,200) and other SHA health care providers involved in delivering COVID-19 immunizations;

The prioritization framework of Saskatchewan's COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Plan is posted here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/vaccine/saskatchewan-covid-19-vaccine-delivery-plan.pdf>.

It is anticipated phase 2 will begin in April with additional priority groups, as identified, and the general population (by age). The Ministry of Health will

provide updates on the availability of vaccines as the situation evolves, noting that vaccine approval and availability is established by the federal government.

Q.5. Who will be authorized to provide COVID-19 Vaccines under the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan?

A.5. A list of potential COVID vaccination immunizers is included as part of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan. The list includes professions such as physicians, registered nurses, and pharmacists, which traditionally provide vaccinations as part of their scope of practice. However, the list also includes other immunizers such as health care students, retired health care professionals, and health care professionals that traditionally would not administer vaccinations (e.g., dentists).

Q.6. How will the government ensure that non-traditional immunizers such as students and others are competent to administer vaccinations? Will training be provided to these individuals?

A.6. Employers (e.g., Saskatchewan Health Authority [SHA], community pharmacies) must ensure that COVID vaccine immunizers are competent to administer the vaccination and it must be safe and appropriate for each immunizer to do so. Training will be made available to all immunizers who want to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Q.7. Do the amendments under *The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021* create a legal directive or mandate that requires me as a health care worker or student to participate in the vaccination program?

A.7. No. The amendments are enabling the establishment of the delivery program only. Those individuals who want to participate in the COVID vaccination program and have the training necessary to do so can engage with an employer. There is no legal directive mandating that an individual participate in the vaccination program.

Q.8. As a health care student or a formerly licensed member do I need to be licensed with my regulatory college?

A.8. No. Those providers identified in Appendix A as vaccination providers as part of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan have the authority to immunize subject to the terms and conditions in Part B.

Q.9. What is the potential liability risk for me to participate as a COVID vaccination Immunizer?

A.9. The amendments have a provision that extends the liability provision contained in *The Public Health Act, 1994* to those administering vaccinations under

Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan. This immunity clause would cover anyone who participates as an immunizer in the vaccination program and acts in good faith while carrying out their duties.

Q.10. Are the health professional regulatory bodies (e.g., SRNA, CPSS) supportive of the use of health care students and others to administer COVID vaccinations?

A.10. Yes. The Ministry has worked closely with the health professional regulatory bodies on the issue of using students, retired health care professionals, and others to administer vaccines. The regulatory bodies are supportive of the Ministry's plan to ensure all COVID-19 immunizers are properly trained and provide vaccinations in a collaborative setting.

Q.11. Which employers/organizations will be used as part of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan to provide COVID vaccines?

A.11. COVID vaccinations will be provided by various employers/organizations including the following:

- the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) or an affiliate as defined in The Provincial Health Authority Act;
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC);
- Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA);
- a First Nation Health Agency recognized by ISC or NITHA;
- Athabasca Health Authority;
- corporate immunizers approved by the Ministry of Health;
- physicians;
- pharmacies; and
- individuals or organizations approved by the Ministry of Health.

Q.12. How will potential events like anaphylaxis be managed with the use of students and other non-traditional immunizers?

A.12. COVID vaccinations are being administered in collaborative health care team environments, which include regulated health care professionals trained to manage anaphylaxis and other events (e.g., RNs, paramedics).

Q.13. How many additional immunizers are required to assist with the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations?

A.13. Based on estimates that the SHA provided to the Ministry, more than 600 additional immunizers are required for phase II to assist the SHA with the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations. Additional COVID-19 immunizers would be required in other settings such as community pharmacies.

Q.14. How can interested individuals (e.g., health care students, retired health care professionals) get in contact with the SHA to potentially become a COVID-19 immunizer?

A.14. Those who are interested in working as immunizers for the SHA are being asked to go to the following website and fill in the application survey:
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/news/service-alerts-emergency-events/covid-19/become-involved/Pages/Home.aspx>

Q.15. Will all those listed in the COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan as immunizers be called upon to immunize?

A.15. The list included in the plan identifies possible immunizers. Not everyone on that list will necessarily be called up and only those who want to participate and have the appropriate knowledge and training will actually deliver immunizations. All immunizations will be delivered in an environment where experienced immunizers are present.

Q.16 I see that veterinarians and veterinary assistants are included in the list. Are they going to be delivering immunizations?

A.16 Veterinarians have a range of skill and knowledge similar to many health care workers. If called upon to participate in the vaccine delivery, veterinarians will complete the same training that other immunizers will do and will work in a similarly controlled environment to ensure the safe delivery of the vaccine.

Other jurisdictions – for example, Manitoba, are taking similar steps.