

PURPOSE

Vaccination is a critical action to prevent the acquisition and spread of disease.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND PREREQUISITE TRAINING

Paramedics, AEMTs or EMTs who are trained and credentialed to perform immunization by the Vermont Department of Health may administer vaccines per the Vermont Department of Health EMS Vaccination Guidelines.

INDICATIONS

Prehospital practitioners may be called upon to provide certain immunizations as necessary to assist state health officials in the event of a public health crisis.

NON-PATIENT SPECIFIC ORDERS

- A non-patient specific order may be provided by a physician provider for administration of annual influenza vaccine, specifying the dosing and administration instructions when partnering with a Vermont Department of Health-approved vaccination entity. This order needs to be renewed annually.
- A non-patient specific order may be provided by the Vermont Department of Health for specific health emergencies, specifying the immunization, dosing and administration instructions.
- A non-patient specific order authorizes EMTs, AEMTs, or Paramedics to administer specified immunizations for a specified period of time to an entire group of persons such as school children, employees, patients of a nursing home, etc.
- Currently approved immunizations include influenza and COVID-19 when developed. Other CDC approved immunizations may be considered with authorization by the Vermont Department of Health..

PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS

- Ensure that the potential immunization recipient is assessed for contraindications to immunizations.
- Inform each potential immunization recipient of the potential side effects and adverse reactions, orally and in writing, prior to immunization, and inform each potential immunization recipient, in writing, of the appropriate course of action in the event of an untoward or adverse event. Vaccine Information Statements (VIS), developed by the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC), United States Department of Health and Human Services are recommended for this use. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/>
- Before the immunization is administered, obtain consent for the immunization from the potential recipient.
- In cases of minors and persons incapable of personally consenting to immunization consent may be gained by informing the legally responsible person of the potential side effects and adverse reactions in writing and obtaining a written consent prior to administering the immunization.
- Provide to each legally responsible immunization recipient a signed certificate of immunization noting the recipient's name, date of immunization, address, administering EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic, immunizing agent, manufacturer and lot number.
- Have available on-site medications to treat anaphylaxis including, but not limited to, epinephrine and necessary needles and syringes.
- Report all adverse immunization outcomes to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) using the appropriate form from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Department of Health and Human Services (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>) and the Vermont Department of Health.
- Coordinate with program site managers to ensure that the record of all persons immunized includes: the non-patient specific standing order and protocol utilized, recipient's name, date, address of immunization site, immunization, manufacturer and lot number of administered vaccine(s), and recommendations for future immunizations.
- Coordinate with program site managers to ensure that a record is kept of all potential recipients, noting those who declined immunization.