

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 (the PREP Act), as amended, expands the vaccination workforce by permitting registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses with recently expired licenses to administer COVID-19 vaccines in any jurisdiction in which the PREP Act applies.

The PREP Act is a federal law. As such, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) is not involved in its administration. The following FAQs are intended as a resource to provide useful information to employers, nurses, and the public regarding the applicability of the PREP Act. For additional information, the amendments to the PREP Act can be found here: <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/prepact/Pages/PREP-Act-Guidance.aspx>.

**I am a nurse with a retired/ (lapsed) delinquent/inactive license. Can I administer the COVID-19 vaccine? And if so, in what states?**

According to the PREP Act, registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses whose licenses expired within the past five years are able to administer COVID-19 vaccines in **any** state, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The nurse held an active license within the past 5 years;
2. The nurse's license is currently in inactive, expired, or (lapsed) delinquent status;
3. The nurse's license was active and in good standing prior to the date it went inactive, expired, or became delinquent (lapsed);
4. The nurse's license was not revoked; surrendered while under suspension, discipline, or investigation by a licensing authority; or surrendered following an arrest; and
5. The nurse is not on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the Office of the Inspector General.

The nurse must also meet all of the requirements listed below regarding administration of the vaccine.

**If I am a nursing student can I administer the COVID-19 vaccine? And if so, in what states?**

According to the PREP Act, any nursing student with appropriate training in administering vaccines, as determined by his or her school or training program and supervision by a currently practicing healthcare professional experienced in administering intramuscular injections, may administer COVID-19 vaccines in any state.

**Given I have met the above conditions (as a previously licensed nurse or as a nursing student), what additional requirements must I meet to provide the vaccine?**

**Those administering the vaccine are subject to the following requirements:**

- The vaccine must be authorized, approved, or licensed by the FDA;

- Vaccination must be ordered and administered according to ACIP's COVID–19 vaccine recommendation(s);
- The healthcare professionals and students must have documentation of completion of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules](#) and, if applicable, such additional training as may be required by the State, territory, locality, or Tribal area in which they are prescribing, dispensing, or administering COVID-19 vaccines;
- The healthcare professionals and students must have documentation of an observation period by a currently practicing healthcare professional experienced in administering intramuscular injections, and for whom administering intramuscular injections is in their ordinary scope of practice, who confirms competency of the healthcare provider or student in preparation and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine(s) to be administered and, if applicable, such additional training as may be required by the State, territory, locality, or Tribal area in which they are prescribing, dispensing, or administering COVID-19 vaccines;
- The healthcare professionals and students must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- The healthcare professionals and students must comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the jurisdiction in which he or she administers vaccines, including informing the patient's primary-care provider when available, submitting the required immunization information to the State or local immunization information system (vaccine registry), complying with requirements with respect to reporting adverse events, and complying with requirements whereby the person administering a vaccine must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine; and
- The healthcare professionals and students must comply with any applicable requirements (or conditions of use) as set forth in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID–19 vaccination provider agreement and any other federal requirements that apply to the administration of COVID– 19 vaccine(s).

The Board DOES NOT require that an individual's proof of competency be sent to the Board prior to administering the COVID-19 vaccine under the PREP Act. However, Board Staff suggests that each individual keep a copy of his/her training or competency verification should any questions arise about his/her practice in this role.

**I am an employer; how can I ensure that a nurse is able to provide COVID-19 vaccine administration, given the requirements of the PREP Act?**

An employer may verify the history of a nursing license in [NURSYS](#) to ensure that a nurse had an active nursing license in good standing that was subsequently placed in retired, inactive, or (lapsed) delinquent status within the last five years.

**If a nurse meets the requirements of the PREP Act, how does that affect the nurse's scope of practice?**

The PREP Act does not expand a nurse's scope of practice beyond that of the nurse's previously held nursing license; rather, the PREP Act only permits the nurse to provide COVID-19 vaccination administration.

**If I meet the terms of the PREP Act, would I be able to provide other nursing care outside of the administration of the COVID-19 vaccination pursuant to the PREP Act's requirements?**

The PREP ACT is intended to permit COVID-19 vaccination administration and does not extend to general nursing practice. However, vaccination administration includes the ability of the nurse to monitor and assess patients for any side effects or complications of the vaccine. Therefore, it would be expected that a nurse would monitor, assess, and intervene as necessary should a patient need to be stabilized after the vaccine administration.

**I am a nurse who is currently licensed in Texas. Where can I provide COVID-19 vaccinations?**

Currently licensed nurses may provide COVID-19 vaccination administration in **any** state or jurisdiction where the PREP Act applies. However, this authority is limited to COVID-19 vaccine administration and does not expand the nurse's scope of practice or extend to general nursing practice.

**Where can I find additional information related to the PREP Act?**

For additional information and Frequently Asked Questions about the PREP Act visit [HHS press release](#) and [PREP Act Q&As](#).