



FAQ Dietitians as COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Providers (April 2022)

Q.1 Can Dietitians in Saskatchewan administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines?

Yes. Dietitians are among the “additional vaccine providers” set out in the Ministerial Order signed on April 4, 2022 who can provide publicly funded COVID-19 and influenza vaccines until March 31, 2023. Dietitians must be employed by one of the organizations listed in Q3 and complete the training required by their employer.

As Dietitians are classified as “additional vaccine providers”, they can only perform COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations within a collaborative team environment that includes a member of a regulated health profession who is already authorized to administer COVID-19 and/or influenza vaccinations and are trained to manage anaphylaxis and other events (eg. RN, physicians, pharmacists).

Q.2 Which professions are authorized to provide COVID-19 and influenza vaccines under this Order?

To supplement those regulated health professions already authorized to deliver vaccinations through other legislation (eg. physicians, nurses, pharmacists), the Order authorizes the following classes of persons as additional COVID-19 vaccination providers for the purposes of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan (the “Plan”) and the Saskatchewan Influenza Immunization Program (the “Program”) subject to terms and conditions noted below the table.

Health Care Students
Medicine
Registered nursing
Registered psychiatric nursing
Pharmacy
Paramedic
International Medical Graduates (IMG)
International Medical Graduates
Formerly Licensed Health Professionals
Physicians
Nurse Practitioners
Registered nursing
Registered psychiatric nursing
Pharmacy
Paramedic
Midwives
Respiratory Therapists
Auxiliary Vaccination Provider Category
Dental Therapists
Dental Hygienists
Dental Assistants
Dietitians
Pharmacy Technicians

Q3. Which employers/organizations can deliver COVID-19 or influenza vaccines as part of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan and Influenza Immunization Program?

- Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) or an affiliate;
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC);
- Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA);
- First Nation Health Agencies recognized by ISC or NITHA;
- Athabasca Health Authority;
- Physicians; and
- Pharmacies.

Q4. What training is required to be an immunizer?

Employers must be satisfied that the COVID-19 and influenza vaccination provider is trained according to agency and/or regulatory body requirements and is competent to deliver the vaccination and it is safe and appropriate for the agent or employee to do so.

If not otherwise specified or provided by your employer, SDA requires completion of five online courses (page 4) to develop the competencies assessed in the Immunizer Checklist (page 3).

Q5. How will potential events like anaphylaxis be managed with the use of students and other non-traditional immunizers?

COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations are being administered in collaborative health care team environments, which include regulated health care professionals already authorized through existing legislation to administer vaccinations and trained to manage anaphylaxis and other events (eg. RN, physicians, pharmacists).

Q6. What is the potential liability risk for me to participate as an immunizer?

The amendments include 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 and Influenza Immunization Program. 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. As with all professional practice activities, it is the responsibility of the practitioner to determine their own competency and comfort level with any task requested of them. If you do not feel competent or safe to perform a task, it is your responsibility to indicate this to your employer.

Please reference the [Joint Statement on Professional Accountability](#) for further information regarding working within your competency when being asked to perform pandemic related roles.

SDA CHECKLIST FOR SUPERVISED IMMUNIZATION EXPERIENCE

ACTIVITY/TOPIC FOR REVIEW	OBJECTIVES	ASSESSOR INITIALS
Anaphylaxis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aware of anaphylaxis protocol, where anaphylaxis kit is located and what the contents include Describes the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and the site- specific emergency management of anaphylaxis 	
Obtained informed consent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including Risk/Benefit Info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates procedure to obtain consent Identifies population groups who require additional risk/benefit info and describes the consent procedure for those populations Identifies the contraindications to administering vaccine 	
Vaccine Storage & Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify various lengths of time and conditions for specific vaccines Describe Cold Chain process and handling a Cold Chain break 	
Aseptic Technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates use of sterile/aseptic technique 	
Vaccine Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes what to expect on visual inspection of the vaccine vial, labelling, and contents prior to administration Identifies which vaccine requires reconstitution Demonstrates the reconstitution procedure (as applicable) Demonstrates appropriate selection of syringe & needle Demonstrates how to withdraw vaccine from a vial and how many doses to expect for each brand 	
Vaccine Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates appropriate client positioning Demonstrates IM injection technique including land marking & equipment Demonstrates engagement of Safety Engineered Sharps Devices (SESD) & appropriate disposal of needle and syringe 	
Post Immunization Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates client health teaching regarding post-immunization care Encourage client to remain for 15 mins 	
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates the documentation requirements for vaccination Describes documentation required for adverse events 	
Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates appropriate hand hygiene 	
PPE Donning & Doffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates steps for Donning/Doffing PPE Describes PPE requirements for immunizing 	

DEMONSTRATION (Assessor to initial – 5 times minimum; repeat as needed at Assessor’s discretion):	1	2	3	4	5
Informed Consent					
Vaccine Preparation					
Site Preparation					
Administration					
Documentation/Reporting					
Post-Immunization					

Assessor:

Name, Designation

Signature

Date

I confirm that I have reviewed the above information and I have been given the opportunity to have my questions answered: Immunizer:

Name, Designation

Signature

Date

Immunizer Competency Development- Online Courses

If not otherwise specified or provided by your employer, SDA requires completion of the following five online courses to develop the competencies assessed in the Immunizer Checklist.

1. Immunization Guide for New Immunizers
2. Intramuscular Injections for Vaccination
3. Anaphylaxis – Identification and Initial Treatment January 2021
4. Base Learning for COVID-19 Immunizations including Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines
5. Supplemental Immunization Learning for COVID-19 including AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen

To access the Saskatchewan Health training modules for vaccine education, complete the following steps:

1. Click on this link, or copy it into the Chrome browser:
https://skhlearninganddevelopment.thinkific.com/users/sign_up
2. Click “Create New Account.”
3. Complete the “Create a new account” form, using your email address
4. You should now be logged in to the Saskatchewan Health learning platform.
5. Click on this link, or copy it, into the Chrome browser:
<https://skhlearninganddevelopment.thinkific.com/courses/immunization-guide-for-new-immunizers>
6. The course welcome screen will appear. Click “Enroll for Free.”
7. You will now have access to the course and it will be available in your course list under “My Dashboard” when you log in again in the future.

Once you are logged in you should be able to go to ‘View More Courses’ to see the rest of the vaccine education and more.