

FAQ

HHS PREP Act Declaration Allows Recently Retired Nurses to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued an amendment to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to add additional categories of qualified persons authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

This [amendment](#):

- Authorizes a nurse who is licensed in a state to administer COVID-19 vaccines in any other state or U.S. territory.
- A nurse whose license expired **within the past five years** may administer COVID-19 vaccines so long as the license was **active and in good standing** prior to the date it went inactive.
- **To determine if a South Dakota nurse meets the criteria:**
 - **Verify the nurse's license** on the [SDBON Verification Website](#) by searching by the nurse's license number, first and last name, or SSN. If the license's **Expiration Date** is within 5 years and if the **Discipline Status** say "No" the nurse meets the criteria of the HHS Amendment.
 - The nurse is required to complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccine Training and, for nurses who are not currently practicing or whose license is expired, is required to have an on-site observation period by a currently practicing healthcare professional.
 - Please note the HHS Amendment does not change a nurse's licensure status. A nurse who wants to provide other nursing services or duties, must hold an active license.