



Florida State Oriental Medical Association

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Emergency Approval for Florida Licensed Acupuncturists
Enrollment Eligibility in Florida SHOTS

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge Florida while proving to be a catalyst for innovation in healthcare management and delivery. Mission critical remains executing Florida's strategy and plan to deliver the statewide vaccination effort safely and responsibly.

To that end, the Florida SHOTS program provides credentialing and additional training for healthcare providers and other personnel under the State's vaccination program. Given the demand surge for qualified healthcare providers to participate in Florida SHOTS, the Florida State Oriental Medical Association (FSOMA) urges you to consider approving inclusion of Licensed Acupuncturists to provide COVID-19 vaccinations.

Nearly 2,700 Florida Licensed Acupuncturists provide patient care in clinic and hospital settings throughout the State. Acupuncturists are autonomous, direct access, primary health care providers who complete a masters or doctoral training program that includes extensive coursework in anatomy, physiology, pathology, biomedical terminology, first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). [Ref. 457.102(2) & 457.105 F.S.]

Entry-level Acupuncture training includes completion of *Infection Control Training* with instruction in clean-needle-technique and universal precautions for preventing transmission of bloodborn pathogens and other infectious diseases, including, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, staphylococcus, and tuberculosis. Acupuncturists' training also includes 60-hours of supervised technical instruction for injection therapy with an emphasis on patient education and recognizing/reporting adverse events. [Ref. 64B1-4.001(4) & 64B1-4.012 F.A.C]

Florida Acupuncturists are licensed, qualified, and insured to perform intramuscular injections consistent with the procedure for injecting vaccinations. At this time, we request that Acupuncturists licensed under Chapter 457 F.S. be granted emergency approval as qualified providers in the Florida SHOTS vaccination program. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

David M. Bibbey

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Florida State Oriental Medical Association, President