

DOCTORS OF OPTOMETRY AND VACCINE ADMINISTRATION: THE FACTS

Ninety-nine percent of Americans live in a county with a doctor of optometry.¹



Overall more than 90 percent of the U.S. Medicare beneficiary population lives within 15 minutes of a doctor of optometry.²

Doctors of optometry have the necessary knowledge to provide vaccines and all optometry schools teach injections as part of optometric training.



Doctors of optometry in some states are already authorized to provide vaccinations. These states include California, Kentucky, Ohio and Utah.

Doctors of optometry in 19 states are already authorized to administer injections.³



The AOA Health Policy Institute data describe that during less than one month early in the pandemic, doctors of optometry provided urgent and emergency care to approximately 206,627 individuals.

Thousands of doctors of optometry are CPR certified as required by the state law, and many more seek this certification as part of their overall commitment to best serving patients.



The need to expand the types of health care professionals with authority to administer vaccinations is not partisan. Both the previous Presidential administration and the current administration have highlighted the need for states to evaluate and expand their workforce that can provide vaccines.

In an additional 20 states, doctors of optometry are authorized to treat anaphylaxis through injection.

