



## **American Disease Prevention Coalition Urges State Policymakers to Eliminate Restrictions on Pharmacists' Authority to Administer Adult Vaccines**

Pharmacies will play a critical role in ensuring that tens of millions of Americans are eventually vaccinated against COVID-19. As multiple COVID-19 vaccine candidates near final approval, the American Disease Prevention Coalition urges all states to permanently remove excessive restrictions on pharmacists' ability to administer adult vaccines.

Under the current national public health emergency, [the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) has granted universal authority](#) for pharmacists in all 50 states to administer COVID-19 vaccines to all adults. However, this authority will expire whenever the public health emergency designation is lifted.

This is concerning because state laws on pharmacist-administered vaccines vary widely, which could limit pharmacies' ability to provide accessible and convenient care during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in some states, pharmacists can only administer a vaccine to certain populations, or only if a doctor provides a special prescription.

While the current public health emergency supersedes these state laws with respect to COVID-19 vaccines, these restrictions still put people's lives and health at risk and can have disproportionate impact on underserved populations, including rural communities where hospitals and doctors' offices may be scarce.

States must permanently repeal these unnecessary restrictions and ensure pharmacists can administer all vaccines approved and authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

HHS has partnered with major retail pharmacy chains to distribute and administer COVID-19 vaccines because of the critical, life-saving role pharmacists play in our nation's health care system. Pharmacists have helped administer vaccines during previous disease outbreaks, such as the recent measles and meningitis outbreaks, and the [H1N1 influenza pandemic](#). And that experience is matched by convenience: [roughly 9 out of 10 Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy](#).

COVID-19 vaccines have the potential to save millions of lives, but vaccines are only as effective as people's ability to receive them. As states prepare their delivery and distribution systems for COVID-19 vaccines, ensuring pharmacists can administer all ACIP-recommended and FDA-approved and authorized vaccines is a critical component to protecting Americans' health during this crucial time and beyond.

### **About the American Disease Prevention Coalition**

The American Disease Prevention Coalition advocates for state legislation that enables pharmacists to administer adult immunizations recommended by the CDC within Recommended Immunization Schedules; immunizations or vaccines recommended in the CDC's Health Information for International Travel; and those approved or authorized by the United States FDA for Use in the United States—under pharmacist's own authority, similar to how other vaccine providers initiate and administer vaccines. Find us at [www.vaccinesshouldntwait.org](http://www.vaccinesshouldntwait.org) and Twitter: @ADPCVaccines.