

Maternal Vaccines Can Help Save Lives



Vaccination is one of the most effective public health interventions in the world after clean water.¹

Every year, thousands of people in the United States become seriously ill or die of some of the world's most deadly communicable diseases, such as measles, influenza (flu), herpes zoster (shingles), meningitis, pneumonia, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV), RSV, and COVID-19. Vaccines help protect children, adolescents, expecting mothers, and all adults from vaccine-preventable diseases like these. They also result in lower overall health care costs to both patients and the health care system.

The Economic Impact of Vaccines

- + **Vaccines Save Money:** An estimated \$3 in direct payer savings and \$10 in societal savings for every dollar spent on childhood vaccinations.²
- + **Vaccine-Preventable Diseases are Costly:** A 2015 study found that vaccine-preventable diseases cost individuals and society \$9 billion annually. Nearly 80% of those costs were attributable to unvaccinated individuals.³

Maternal Vaccines Protect Moms and Infants

Vaccines are safe during pregnancy. Vaccines undergo extensive research and rigorous testing through multiple phases of clinical trials and continuous monitoring to ensure their safety, efficacy and quality. Maternal vaccination plays a crucial role in protecting both mothers and their infants from serious illness. Vaccines administered during pregnancy can help provide passive immunity to newborns, ensuring they receive essential protection against infections like flu, whooping cough, RSV and COVID-19 in their early months.

Disparities in Maternal Vaccination

While maternal vaccinations can save lives, disparities exist. Many pregnant women and nursing moms do not receive all the recommended vaccines. This is especially true for low-income individuals. Collaboration between public health officials, health care providers, and pharmacies is essential for removing barriers and improving maternal vaccination rates.



Fast Facts on Maternal Vaccination

- + Yes, pregnant women can get vaccinated at a pharmacy!
- + Getting a flu shot reduces a pregnant woman's risk of being hospitalized with flu by an **average of 40%**.
- + About **7 in 10 deaths** from whooping cough are among babies younger than 2 months old.⁴ These babies are too young to be protected by their own vaccinations.
- + Infants 6 months and under are especially at risk for severe illness from RSV. Getting vaccinated in weeks **32 through 36 weeks** of pregnancy passes RSV protection to the baby if born at least two weeks after vaccination.

Pharmacy Vaccination Improves Maternal and Infant Health

Pharmacists can administer vaccines to maternal populations in all 50 states and Washington, DC. However, each state has its own laws and regulations that determine the level of pharmacist authority to vaccinate, including which vaccines they can administer, age, and whether they can prescribe vaccines or need a prescription.

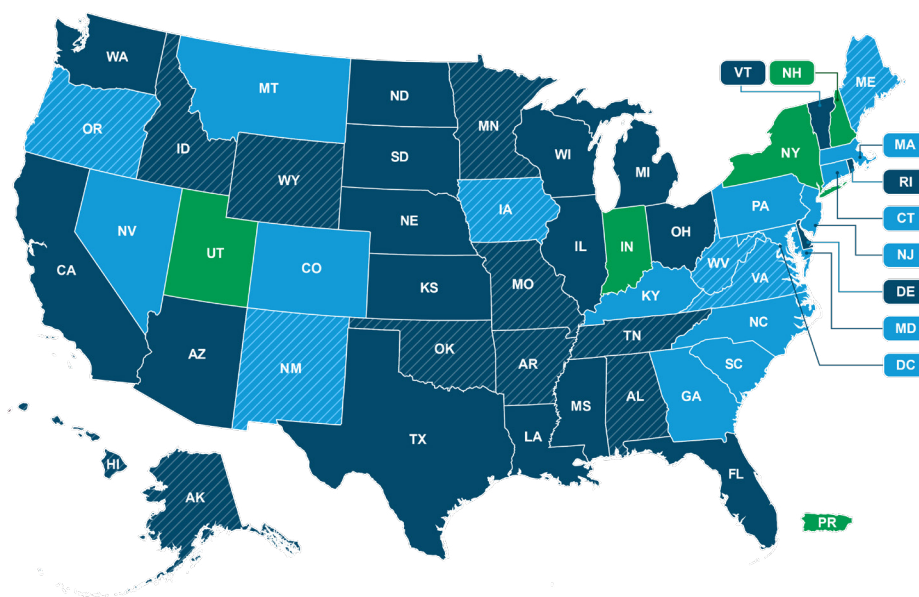
Increasing access to maternal vaccination through pharmacies can significantly improve health outcomes for both mothers and infants. Pharmacies serve as an essential access point for maternal vaccinations, offering convenience and extended hours compared to traditional health care settings. This accessibility can alleviate barriers for expectant mothers.

Pharmacies are equipped to provide a strong provider recommendation and to administer recommended vaccines, making it easier for pregnant women to receive timely immunizations, especially in areas with limited health care resources.

As maternal vaccination continues to play a critical role in public health, enhancing pharmacy access is a key step towards safeguarding the health of mothers and their newborns. Currently, pharmacists' ability to administer vaccines varies from state to state.

Policymakers can help lay the groundwork for a better, stronger, and more equitable health care system by permitting pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to provide vaccinations in all 50 states.

Pharmacy Vaccination Across the Country



Data Source: Manatt

MAP LEGEND

- Pharmacists can administer all FDA-approved vaccines to adult patients. Individual prescriptions are required.
- Pharmacists can administer all FDA-approved vaccines to adult patients. Individual prescriptions are not required.
- Pharmacists can administer all CDC ACIP-recommended vaccines to adult patients. Individual prescriptions are required.
- Pharmacists can administer all CDC ACIP-recommended vaccines to adult patients. Individual prescriptions are not required.
- Pharmacists can administer a pre-set list of vaccines to adult patients without requiring individual prescriptions.

About the American Disease Prevention Coalition

ADPC advocates for state legislation that enables pharmacists to administer 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 pharmacists' own authority, similar to how other vaccine providers initiate and administer vaccines.

Sources

1 World Health Organization. "Immunization." December 5, 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/immunization>

2 Rémy V, Zöllner Y, Heckmann U. Vaccination: the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system. J Mark Access Health Policy. 2015;3:10.3402/jmahp.v3.27041. Published 2015 Aug 12. doi:10.3402/jmahp.v3.27041

3 Ozawa S, Portnoy A, Getaneh H, Clark S, Knoll M, Bishai D, Yang H Keri, and Patwardhan P. Modeling The Economic Burden Of Adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases In The United States. Health Affairs (Project Hope) 35, no. 11 (November 1, 2016): 2124–2132. 2

4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "You can start protecting your baby from whooping cough before birth" November 19, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/downloads/is-protecting-before-birth.pdf>



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