

Protecting Pharmacy Vaccine Access

Protect patient vaccine access! States must act NOW to ensure that millions of Americans can continue to get COVID-19 vaccines access at their local pharmacy!

Barriers to Timely Vaccination

The ability for pharmacists to vaccinate is dependent on state policies which govern pharmacist, pharmacy intern, and pharmacy technicians' authority to give immunizations and can vary from state to state. In many states, this authority is linked to an ACIP/CDC recommendation and/or the vaccine being listed on CDC schedules.

This year, the federal processes related to the COVID-19 vaccine have been delayed compared to years past. Although FDA did approve an updated COVID-19 vaccine for limited patient populations, ACIP has not yet made recommendations for the updated shot. As a result, in the states where pharmacist authority is linked to ACIP and/or CDC, access to the updated vaccine has been challenging.

Ways That States Can Take Action

To ensure that people who want to receive the updated COVID vaccine at their pharmacy this fall can do so, a growing number of states have quickly deployed a variety of solutions to simplify access to this care.

In states that still need to take action, there are different ways that these states can act:



Governors should sign Executive Actions to allow pharmacies to vaccinate for COVID-19 without a patient-specific prescription.



In some states, **State Boards of Pharmacy can regulate pharmacists' authority** to administer vaccines and determine whether pharmacists can act independently, under a protocol, or only with a prescription.



State Departments of Health can issue statewide standing orders or protocols that allow pharmacists and other providers to administer vaccines without individual prescriptions.



Legislators can change state law to allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to vaccinate for all vaccines that are FDA-approved.

We urge action from any affected states that need to restore vaccine accessibility. Additionally, states should pursue permanent policy changes to address the underlying restrictions that have led to the access challenges with the updated COVID vaccine so that the public does not experience the barriers to receiving available FDA-approved vaccines in the future.

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.