

# Implications of ACIP Changes on Vaccine Access in Pharmacies



**Allison L. Hill, PharmD, RPh**  
**Director, Professional Affairs**  
**American Pharmacists Association**

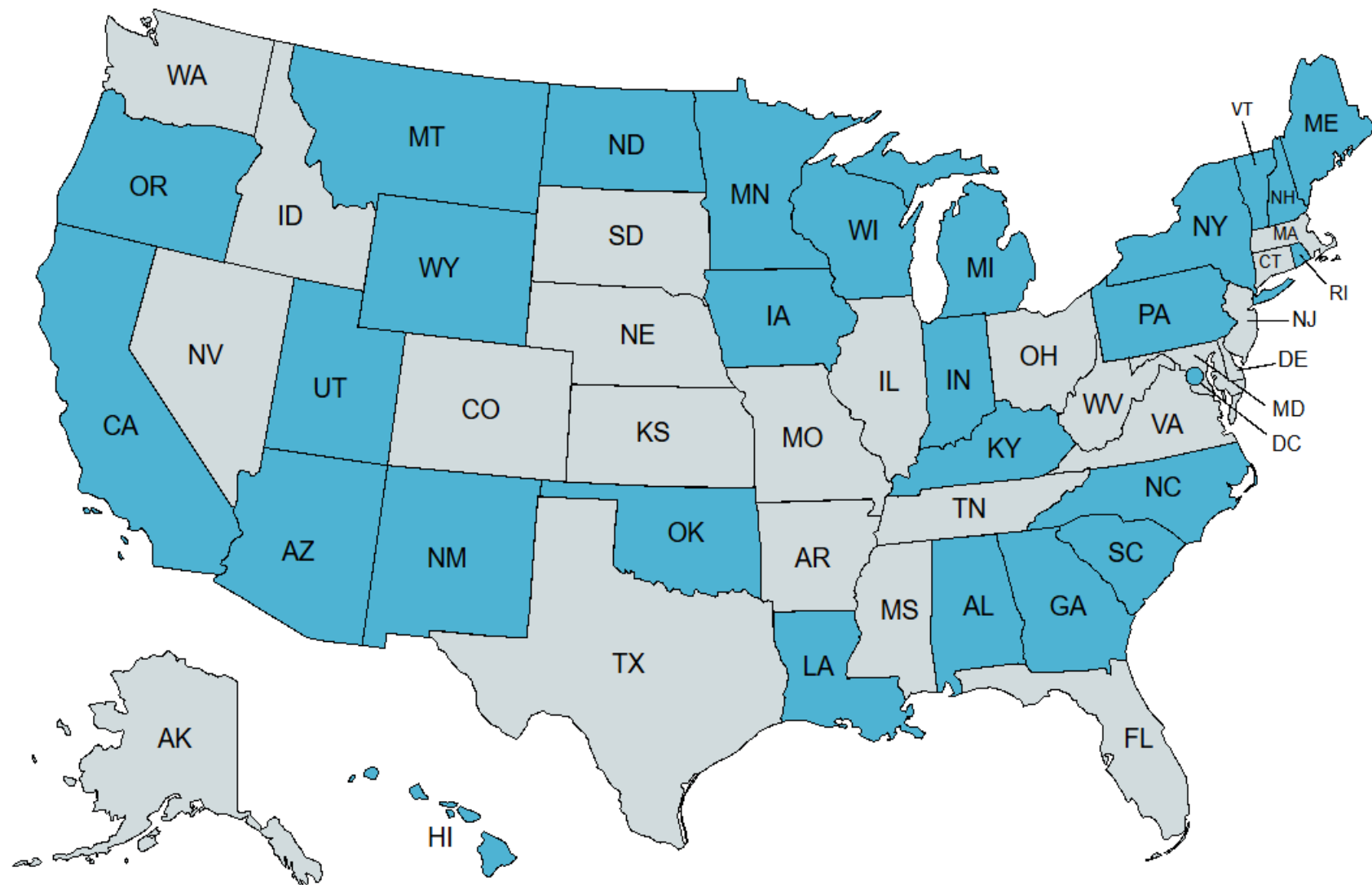
# Pharmacies: America's Vaccination Powerhouse

Pharmacists and pharmacy personnel delivered most adult vaccines during the 2024-2025 season. Their accessibility and trust make them essential to public health.



1. COVID-19 vaccinations administered in pharmacies and medical offices\*, adults 18 years and older, United States. (2025, May 7). COVIDVaxView. <https://www.cdc.gov/covidvaxview/weekly-dashboard/vaccinations-administered-pharmacies-medical.html>
2. Influenza vaccinations administered in pharmacies and physician medical offices\*, adults, United States. (2025, May 7). FluVaxView. <https://www.cdc.gov/fluview/view/dashboard/adult-vaccinations-administered.html>
3. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccinations administered in pharmacies and physician medical offices\*, adults, United States. (2025, May 7). RSVVaxView. <https://www.cdc.gov/rsvvaxview/dashboard/adult-vaccinations-administered.html>

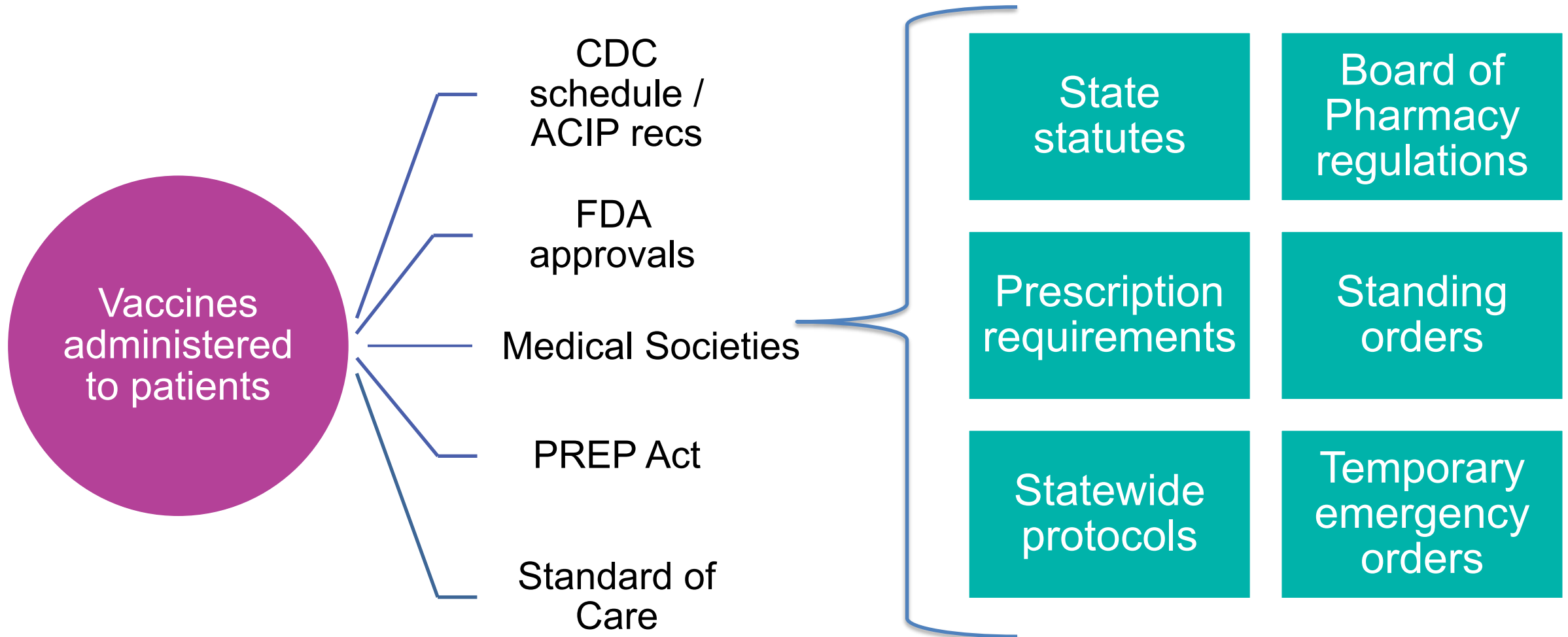
Pharmacy-  
personnel  
COVID-19  
vaccine  
authority tied  
to ACIP  
before April  
1, 2025.



# States that have acted to preserve COVID-19 vaccine access:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- Maine
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Carolina
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- New York
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Virginia
- Vermont
- Washington, DC
- Wisconsin

# Pharmacists' authority to immunize



# Pharmacy-based Vaccine Access Work Group



# Guiding Principles for State Policy on Pharmacy Personnel-Administered Vaccines

- Authorization to Prescribe/Order and Administer
- Evidence-Based, Standard-of-Care Approach
- Broad Definition of Vaccine Eligibility
- Population Access and Age Inclusion
- Training Requirements
- Clear Rulemaking Authority
- Adequate Payment and Coverage





# Example

## Current state law

2. A licensed pharmacist may execute a non-patient specific regimen prescribed or ordered by a physician licensed in this state or nurse practitioner certified in this state, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the commissioner. When a licensed pharmacist administers an immunizing agent, he or she shall:

- report such administration by electronic transmission or facsimile to the patient's attending primary health care practitioner or practitioners, if any, and, to the extent practicable, make himself or herself available to discuss the outcome of such immunization, including any adverse reactions, with the attending primary health care practitioner, and to the statewide immunization registry or the citywide immunization registry, as established pursuant to and to the extent permitted by section twenty-one hundred sixty-eight of the public health law; and
- provide information to the patient or, where applicable, the person legally responsible for the patient, on the importance of having a primary health care practitioner, developed by the commissioner of health; and
- report such administration, absent of any individually identifiable health information, to the department of health in a manner required by the commissioner of health; and
- prior to administering the immunization, inform the patient or, where applicable, the person legally responsible for the patient, of the total cost of the immunization or immunizations, subtracting any health insurance subsidization, if applicable. In the case the immunization is not covered, the pharmacist must inform the patient or, where applicable, the person legally responsible for the patient, of the possibility that the immunization may be covered when administered by a primary care physician or practitioner; and
- administer the immunization or immunizations according to the most current recommendations by the advisory committee for immunization practices (ACIP), provided however, that a pharmacist may administer any immunization authorized under this section when specified by a patient specific order.

a. Immunizations.

- Pursuant to section 6801 of the Education Law, a pharmacist with a certificate of administration issued by the department pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subdivision shall be authorized to administer immunization agents prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subdivision to patients therein specified, provided that:
  - the pharmacist meets the requirements for a certificate of administration prescribed in paragraph (3) of this subdivision and the order and protocol meet the requirements set forth in paragraph (5) of this subdivision; and
  - with respect to non-patient specific orders:
    - the immunization is prescribed or ordered by a New York State licensed and registered physician or certified nurse practitioner, with a practice site in New York State; and
    - if the commissioner of health determines that there is an outbreak of disease, or that there is the imminent threat of an outbreak of disease, then the commissioner of health may issue a non-patient specific regimen applicable statewide.
- Authorized immunization agents. A certified pharmacist who meets the requirements of this section shall be authorized to:
  - administer to patients 18 years of age or older, immunizing agents to prevent influenza, pneumococcal, acute herpes zoster, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, COVID-19, meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis disease, pursuant to a patient specific order or a non-patient specific order;
  - administer to patients between the ages of two and 18 years of age, immunizing agents to prevent influenza, pursuant to a patient specific order or a non-patient specific order; and
  - administer other immunizations recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention for patients 18 years of age or older, pursuant to a patient specific or a non-patient specific order, if the commissioner of health in consultation with the commissioner determines that an immunization:
    - may be safely administered by a licensed pharmacist within their lawful scope of practice; and
    - is needed to prevent the transmission of a reportable communicable disease that is prevalent in New York State; or
    - is a recommended immunization for such patients who:
      - meet age requirements;
      - lack documentation of such immunization;
      - lack evidence of past infection; or
      - have an additional risk factor or another indication as recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention.

## Suggestion from guiding principles

### **Section 1: Practice of Pharmacy – Authorization to Prescribe and Administer Vaccines**

**Suggested placement: Professions and Occupations title (usually under the Pharmacy Practice Act)**

(A) A pharmacist may independently prescribe and administer any vaccine, according to the standard of care.

(B) A pharmacist may delegate to a pharmacy intern or pharmacy technician the authority to administer any vaccine under the supervision of a pharmacist.

(C) The Board of Pharmacy shall have rulemaking authority to implement and enforce the provisions of this section.



# Challenges versus Successes



State pharmacist and pharmacy personnel  
vaccine authority



Pharmacists are allowed in every  
state to administer the COVID-19  
vaccine with a prescription



Evidence-based vaccine guidelines and  
recommendations



Pharmacists are confident  
with the medical societies'  
recommendations and  
guidelines



Vaccine Policy Changes



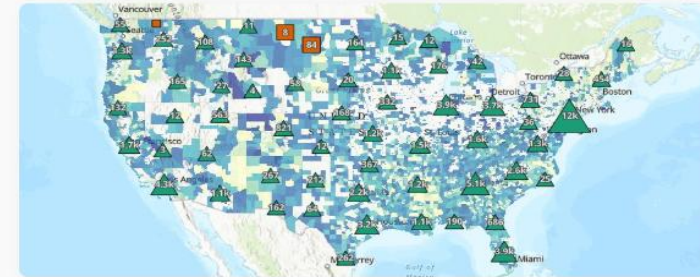
Pharmacists have proven expertise

# Interactive Pharmacy Vaccine Access Maps

- Public map filters
  - Pharmacies that administer vaccines without an appointment
  - Handicap accessibility
  - Hours of operation
  - Spoken languages
- Provider map filters
  - Public map filters plus
  - Social vulnerability
  - Medically underserved areas
  - Health professional shortage areas

Access via [vaccineconfident.pharmacist.com](https://vaccineconfident.pharmacist.com) or

## Pharmacy vaccine access maps



- Public vaccine access map
- Health care provider vaccine access map





**APhA**

*For Every Pharmacist.  
For All of Pharmacy.*

# Thank You!

**Allison L. Hill, PharmD, RPh**  
**Director, Professional Affairs**  
**American Pharmacists Association**  
[ahill@aphanet.org](mailto:ahill@aphanet.org)