APhA
For Every Pharmacist.
For All of Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Access Updates for the 2026-2027 Respiratory Virus Season

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The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) is the first-established, largest, and most diverse national professional association representing pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians in the United States, and the only organization advancing the entire pharmacy profession.



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Pharmacy Access Remains Available This Respiratory Season

No widespread pharmacy access disruptions have been identified for the three primary respiratory vaccines.

✓ COVID-19 vaccines

Available without a prescription at pharmacies across the country.

✓ Influenza vaccines

Available nationwide for those 6 months and older.

✓ RSV vaccines

Pharmacists can administer maternal and adult vaccines.

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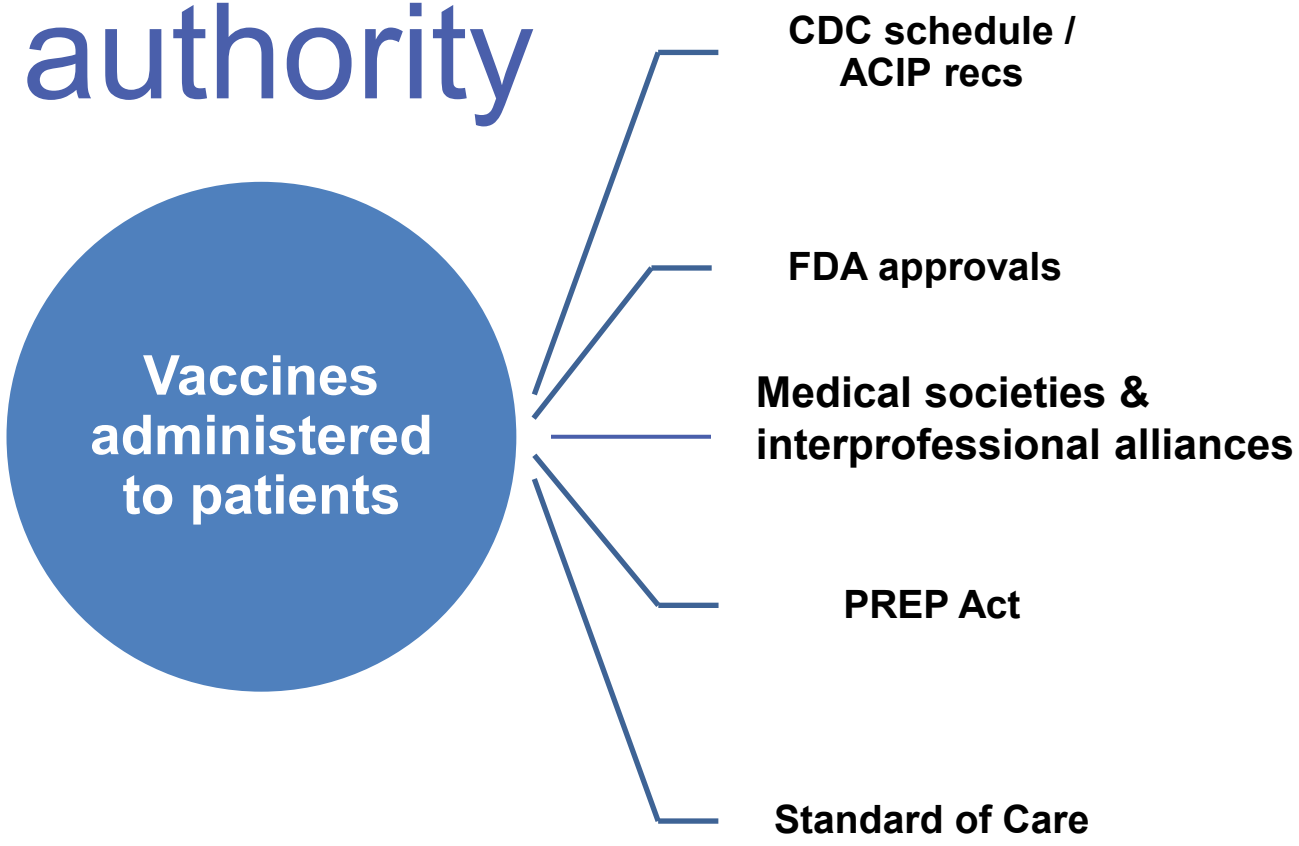
Pharmacists' vaccine authority



- State statutes
- Board of Pharmacy regulations
- Prescription requirements
- Standing orders
- Statewide protocols
- Temporary emergency orders

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Special Situations for Liability Concerns

Pharmacist state vaccine authority, based on medical societies' recommendations, state alliances, etc., allows administration by age, medical condition, or other eligibility; however, a prescription may be required.

A pharmacist or pharmacy organization may exclusively choose to follow CDC/ACIP recommendations.

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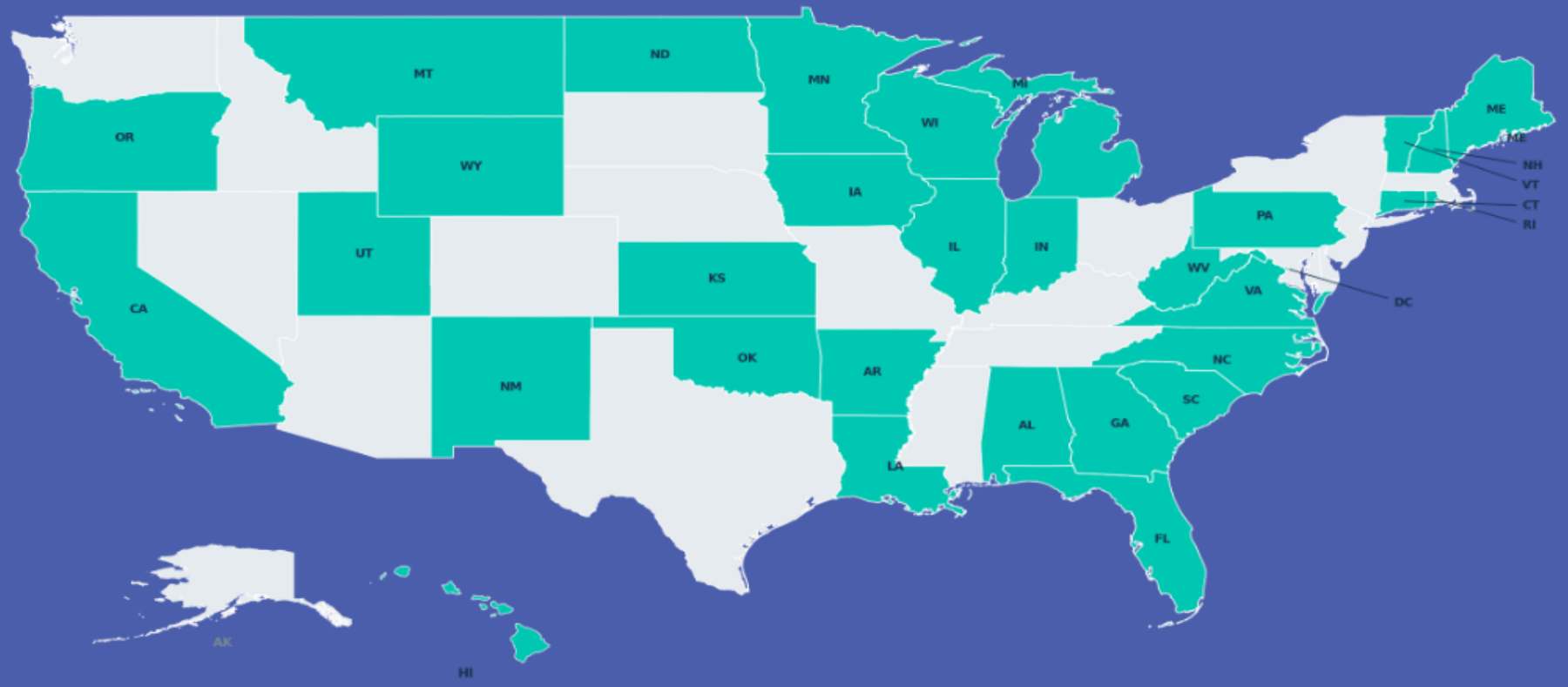
CDC/ACIP mentioned in State Authority

Note: Temporary actions by Governors, Departments of Health, and Boards of Pharmacy have maintained access to 2026-2027 respiratory vaccines, but stable pharmacist vaccination authority requires long-term legislative and regulatory solutions.



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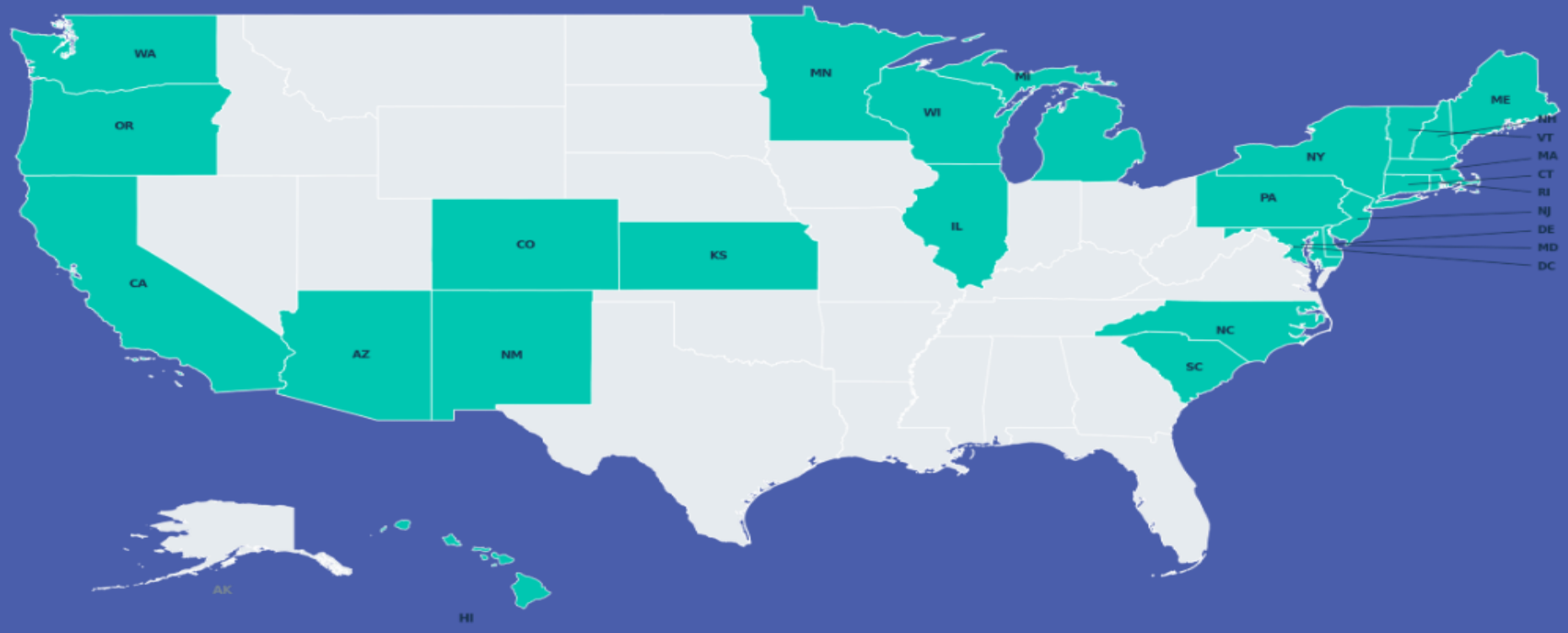
Vaccine authority extends beyond federal recommendations



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Collaborative Authority

Order and administer with a standing order or statewide protocol

- Alabama
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Utah
- Washington

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Independent Authority

Order and administer without a standing order or statewide protocol

- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

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Building Strong Partnerships with Pharmacists in the Immunization Neighborhood

- Build relationships with local pharmacists and understand their vaccine authority and scope of practice.
- Clarify pharmacy vaccination processes, including appointments, walk-ins, and referral pathways.
- Understand prescription, eligibility, age, and documentation requirements before referring patients.
- Maintain open communication to stay informed about operational and policy changes.
- Collaboration helps streamline vaccination, reduce delays, and improve the patient experience.

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Thank you!

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