

Maintain pharmacy administered vaccine & testing authorities

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Minnesotans are about to lose access to services they trust

We must maintain public health by maintaining the immunization and testing authorities granted under the Federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. Without this legislation, pharmacists will lose the authority to order vaccinations and Point of Care tests, pharmacies will lose the authority to vaccinate children down to the age of three and technicians will lose the authority to provide any type of vaccination. **The final extension of the PREP Act expires December 31.**

Under an emergency declaration in 2020 of the PREP Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services provided pharmacists across America with the authority to, among other things:

- Using ACIP schedules, order and administer vaccinations to patients ages 3 years and above with any FDA approved or approved for emergency use vaccine;
- Allow properly trained pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations;
- Order and administer FDA approved or approved for emergency use - CLIA waived tests (non-laboratory testing)

Allow pharmacies to continue services | HF 1979/SF 1176

The pharmacy profession stepped up! Nearly 40% of millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered by Minnesota pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, or pharmacy interns (Minnesota Department of Health, COVID-19 Vaccine Data). Minnesotans have recognized the significant impact that pharmacists have on public health. According to a recent survey by NACDS, “81% of adults in Minnesota believe it’s important for their state to update its policies to ensure that patients permanently have the same access to pharmacy vaccination, testing, and treatment services that were available during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Continue expanded patient access to care - Vaccinations: Enhancing pharmacists' reach to offer vaccinations to all individuals six years and older, and influenza and COVID-19 vaccine to those 3 years and older improves vaccination rates and public health. A pharmacist's clinical decision making, access to resources such as the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC), expertise regarding vaccinations, and frequent referrals to primary care providers all contribute to improved health outcomes.

Efficient teamwork in the profession: All health professionals must practice at the top of their licenses and training to provide the best care. Under the PREP Act declaration in 2020, trained MN pharmacy technicians were allowed to administer vaccines under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist. Allowing qualified pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines, after completion of authorized training & under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist, increases efficiency, allowing pharmacists to focus on clinical tasks, such as assessment, recommendations, & planning for optimal medication outcomes for their patients.

Expanding patient access to care - POC Testing: POC testing involves performing a diagnostic test outside of a laboratory that produces a rapid and reliable result, aiding in identifying acute illness and screening for and managing chronic diseases. This can help identify earlier diagnoses and earlier access to treatment - which can be lifesaving!



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