

# Authority to Immunize During COVID-19

## Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, and Pharmacy Interns

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently expanded [COVID-19](#) and [childhood](#) vaccine authority for pharmacists, [pharmacy interns, and technicians](#) nationwide during the public health emergency. To optimize these opportunities and increase access for the communities you serve, it's important to know what's expected and prepare for your expanded role as an immunizer. **The most important thing you can do right now is review the requirements and ensure you meet the requirements.**

Requirement	COVID-19 Vaccinations	Childhood Vaccinations
<b>Who Is Authorized?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State-licensed pharmacists to order and administer</li> <li>State-authorized pharmacy interns (“intern”)* acting under the supervision of a readily available, qualified pharmacist to administer</li> <li>Qualified pharmacy technicians (“technicians”)* acting under the supervision of a readily available qualified pharmacist to administer</li> </ul>	
<b>Age Requirements</b>	3 years or older	3-18 years old
<b>Vaccine Requirements</b>	FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed	FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed
<b>ACIP Guidelines/Recommendations</b>	COVID-19 vaccine recommendations	<a href="#">Standard Immunization schedules</a>
<b>Pharmacist Training Requirement</b>	The <b>pharmacist</b> must complete an ACPE-approved practical training program of at least 20 hours that includes hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines. <b>Resources:</b> APhA’s <a href="#">Certificate Training Program for Pharmacy-based Immunization Delivery</a> meets this requirement.	
<b>Pharmacy Intern and Technician Training Requirement</b>	The <b>intern</b> and <b>technician</b> must complete an ACPE-approved practical training program that includes hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines.	
<b>Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Requirement</b>	The <b>pharmacist, intern, and technician</b> must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.	
<b>CPE Requirement</b>	The <b>pharmacist</b> and <b>technician</b> must complete a minimum of 2 hours of ACPE-approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education during each state licensing period. <b>Resources:</b> <a href="#">Access APhA’s Education Library for Immunization CPE.</a>	

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# Authority to Immunize During COVID-19 (continued)



## Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, and Pharmacy Interns

Requirement	COVID-19 Vaccinations	Childhood Vaccinations
<b>Recordkeeping Requirement</b>	The <b>pharmacist</b> must comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the jurisdiction in which he or she administers vaccines, including reviewing the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine.	The <b>pharmacist</b> must comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the jurisdiction in which he or she administers vaccines, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informing the patient's primary care provider, when available</li> <li>• Submitting the required immunization information to the state or local immunization information system (vaccine registry)</li> <li>• Complying with requirements with respect to reporting adverse events</li> <li>• Complying with requirements whereby the person administering a vaccine must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine</li> </ul>
<b>Well-child Visit Requirement</b>	If the patient is 18 years of age or younger, the <b>pharmacist, intern, or technician</b> must inform the patient and the adult caregiver accompanying the patient of the importance of a well-child visit with a pediatrician or other licensed primary care provider and refer patients as appropriate. <b>Resources:</b> <a href="#">Well-Child Visit Brochure</a> , <a href="#">Template Referral Form Well-Child Visit</a> , <a href="#">Well-Child Checkup Letter</a>	
<b>Additional Requirements</b>	The <b>pharmacist</b> must comply with any applicable requirements (or conditions of use) as set forth in the CDC COVID-19 vaccination provider agreement and any other federal requirements that apply to the administration of COVID-19 vaccine(s)	



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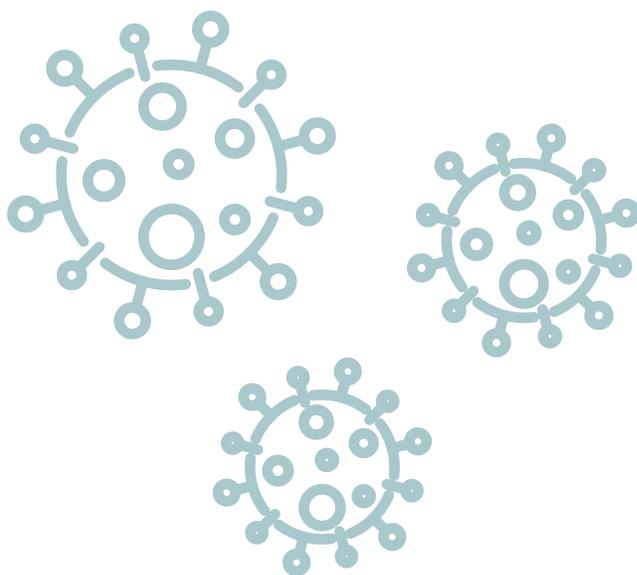
### \*Definitions

#### **State-Authorized Pharmacy Intern (“Intern”)**

- Pharmacy interns working in states with licensure and/or registration requirements must be licensed and/or registered in accordance with state requirements.
- Pharmacy interns working in states without licensure and/or registration requirements must be authorized by the state—or board of pharmacy in the state—in which the practical pharmacy internship occurs.

#### **Qualified Pharmacy Technician (“Technician”)**

- Pharmacy technicians working in states with licensure and/or registration requirements must be licensed and/or registered in accordance with state requirements.
- Pharmacy technicians working in states without licensure and/or registration requirements must have a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) certification from either the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or the National Healthcareer Association.



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