



e-News October 2025

Immunization Guidance Updates

The Board recently updated its pharmacist, pharmacy intern, and pharmacy technician immunization guidance documents:

- **Immunizations by Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns** (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/immunize)
- **Immunizations by Pharmacy Technicians** (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/techimmunize)

NOTE: All COVID-19 immunization information was consolidated into the guidance documents above.

As a reminder, updates to section 4729.41 (effective 5/13/2021) removed requirements to adhere to ACIP recommendations. Pharmacists, interns, and technicians must still comply with the requirements set forth in their prescriber-established protocol.

Rescission of COVID-19 Waivers on Immunizations

On October 6, 2025, the Board voted to approve the rescission of four COVID-19-related immunization waivers. These waivers are set to expire on November 3, 2025. For more information, see the Board's COVID-19 Guidance: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID.

Reminder - Verify Your Seller: It's the Law

The Board continues to be concerned with reports and investigations of clinics and other licensees purchasing counterfeit or non-FDA approved drugs for administration to patients. All pharmacies, clinics, and other healthcare facilities, even those not licensed by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, are required by law to purchase from licensed drug distributors (such as wholesalers, manufacturers, and outsourcing facilities) and, with limited exceptions, pharmacies.

To ensure that a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) is purchasing from an authorized seller, [OAC 4729:5-3-04](#) requires the TDDD to verify the seller is licensed by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy prior to initial purchase and then annually thereafter. Verification should be conducted using [Ohio's eLicense system](#) and must be documented by the licensee (e.g., saving the license verification electronically from eLicense).

As a reminder, licensees cannot purchase drugs from the following sources:

- Facebook and other social media sites.

- Internet sellers, unless they are appropriately licensed with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.
- Other clinics or prescribers, unless both clinics are under the same ownership (this would be considered an intracompany transfer – see [OAC 4729:5-3-09](#)).

Purchasing from unlicensed sources endangers the health and safety of your patients and is considered a violation of Ohio law. The Board takes such violations seriously and, in doing so, may subject the licensee to administrative action, including immediate license suspension, and/or criminal sanctions.

To assist our licensees in avoiding the purchase of counterfeit medications, the Board developed the following resource: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/counterfeitpc.

Governor DeWine Authorizes Ohio Board of Pharmacy to Adopt Emergency Rule Legalizing Tools to Prevent Drug Overdoses

On October 1, 2025, Governor Mike DeWine authorized the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to adopt an emergency rule allowing expanded access to tools to prevent drug overdoses. In addition to test strips and reagent kits for fentanyl, the rule, [OAC 4729-8-02](#), exempts tests for the following compounds from the definition of drug paraphernalia under Ohio law:

- Xylazine;
- Medetomidine;
- Benzimidazole-opioids (commonly referred to as nitazenes); and
- Benzodiazepine and benzodiazepine-related compounds.

For more information regarding this emergency action, the Board developed a guidance document, which can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/instruments. A quick reference guide is also available by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/TestYourDrugs.

Licensees can order fentanyl test strips by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/FTSorder.

Rules Open for Stakeholder Comment

The following rules are open for stakeholder comment until October 27, 2025:

- [Rules for Stakeholder Comment - TDDD Discontinuation of Business \(Comments Due 10.27.2025\)](#)
 - [Rules for Stakeholder Comment - Impaired Licensees, Registrants and Probation \(Comments Due 10.27.2025\)](#)
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National Prescription Drug Takeback Day

On Saturday, October 25, the Drug Enforcement Administration will host DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at locations across the country. DEA and its partners will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications. For more information, please visit: www.DEATakeBack.com.

The Board has also published several resources regarding the disposal of drugs in Ohio. The resources can be found on the Board's website or by following this link: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/disposal.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Resources for Healthcare Professionals

The healthcare profession is not immune to substance use disorders and mental health conditions. Such medical conditions impair a healthcare professional's competency, ability, and judgement. Substance use disorders and/or mental health conditions that are left untreated may not only cause a healthcare professional to risk their career but may also endanger the life of a patient.

These medical conditions can be effectively treated, and it is possible for healthcare professionals that are in treatment or recovery to return to practice.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy encourages all healthcare professionals who may be struggling with a substance use disorder or mental health condition to seek help. Our rules encourage you to seek help if you need it, with no fear of reprisal or repercussions. Specifically, the Board's [duty to report rules](#) do not require reporting to the Board if a licensee voluntarily seeks treatment for a mental health condition or substance use disorder.

For more information about the available substance abuse and mental health resources for healthcare professionals, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Recovery.

Be Vigilant - Watch Out for Scammers!

BOARD STAFF DO NOT ASK FOR MONEY OVER THE PHONE OR VIA EMAIL TO RESOLVE PENDING INVESTIGATIONS. WHEN IN DOUBT, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOARD IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE THE TARGET OF A SCAM.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy continues to learn that licensees are being targeted by scammers who claim to work for various governmental agencies (Board of Pharmacy, DEA, FBI, Department of Justice, etc.) to obtain money from the target. The Board strongly encourages licensees to be alert to avoid scammers.

Scammers may try to initiate contact via phone calls, emails, faxes, and letters purporting to originate from various state and federal agencies that include allegations of drug trafficking and threats of suspension against the target's license.

Board of Pharmacy investigators will not ask for fine payment or personal/sensitive information over the phone and will never contact licensees via fax. As a reminder, administrative fines issued by the Board are not paid via gift cards or cryptocurrency. If the Board of Pharmacy is conducting an investigation and that individual faces action against their license, they will receive an official notice of opportunity for a hearing either via certified mail, personal service, or electronic registered mail.

If you are contacted by a scammer, please report this information using the Board's online complaint form: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint. Additionally, reports should be made to your local law enforcement agency.

If you receive any suspicious calls or correspondence purporting to be from the Board of Pharmacy, we encourage you to call (614-466-4143) or email (contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov) the Board to confirm its legitimacy.



People call, text, and chat the 988 Lifeline to talk about a lot of emotional needs—not just thoughts of suicide. Whatever your reason, the #988Lifeline is there to help. There is

hope.



Ohio Board of Pharmacy
Mike DeWine, *Governor* | **Steven W. Schierholt**, *Executive Director*

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