



COVID-19 Response Efforts

Updated 5/5/2021

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Ohioans during the COVID-19 outbreak. This document outlines the Board's COVID-19 guidance and response efforts, including the issuance of waivers to assist our licensees in addressing operational needs, and will be updated regularly. A full list of waivers is available starting on [page 5](#) of this document.

For more information on the state's efforts to address coronavirus, visit www.coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

PREP Act Expanded to Include Recently Inactive Pharmacists and New Flexibility for Healthcare Students

Pursuant to the Public Readiness and Preparedness (PREP) Act, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has expanded its guidance to include recently inactive (within the last five years) pharmacists and pharmacy interns in the list of clinicians who can administer COVID-19 vaccines. The amendment also allows healthcare students to administer COVID-19 vaccines under the supervision of any healthcare professional.

For more information on these updates and the requirements to qualify, visit the following links:

- [PREP Act Fact Sheet - Expanding the COVID-19 Vaccination Workforce](#)
- [Seventh Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19](#)

Board of Pharmacy Releases COVID-19 Vaccination Inspection Guide

To ensure proper compliance with COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling requirements, the Board developed a COVID-19 Vaccine Inspection Guide. The guide is available on the inspection guide section of the [terminal distributor licensing page](#) and can be accessed directly by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/VACinspect

Latest Ohio Department of Health Issues Vaccine Provider Update

The Ohio Department of Health regularly issues new vaccine provider updates. The latest version of this update can be accessed [here](#).



Updated Intern Supervision Resolution for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

On 2/16/2021, the Board issued a resolution on pharmacy intern supervision requirements for COVID-19 vaccine administration. For more information, licensees are encouraged to review Q17 of the following guidance document: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Reinstatement of Lapsed or Expired Ohio Pharmacist License During COVID-19

Ohio [SB 310](#) (effective 12/29/2020), creates a process whereby a pharmacist whose license is expired or inactive, including due to retirement, may practice under a temporary license without having to apply to reinstate or restore the license. The temporary pharmacist license granted under the act is only valid until May 1, 2021.

NOTE: This provision has expired. Retired pharmacists may still administer vaccines under the Federal Prep Act. For more information on this process, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmTemp.

Use of Ohio Identification Cards for the Sale of Pseudoephedrine or Ephedrine Products During COVID-19

To promote patient access to medications during the COVID-19 pandemic and flu season, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has adopted guidance regarding the use of Ohio-issued photo identification for the purchase of pseudoephedrine or ephedrine products. This guidance can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CovidPSE

Mailing or Delivery of Non-Controlled Dangerous Drugs Personally Furnished by Prescribers

Authorizes a licensed terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) to mail or deliver non-controlled drugs to patients that have been personally furnished by a prescriber that is employed or contracted by the terminal distributor. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Authorizing Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Per the [FDA policy](#) (see page 6), compounders **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to add other active or inactive ingredients, such as ingredients to improve the smell or taste due to the risk of accidental ingestion in children (examples include the use of essential oils). Different or additional ingredients may impact the quality and potency of the product.

Licensees that produce alcohol-based hand sanitizer products that contain inactive/active ingredients not authorized in the FDA policy must adjust their formulas accordingly and discontinue the sale of hand sanitizer that does not comply with the policy. Additionally, licensees are not permitted to sell any compounded hand-sanitizer that does not comply with the FDA policy. Failure to adhere to these requirements may subject a licensee and the licensee's responsible person to disciplinary action.

Drug Compounding Resolutions and Guidance During COVID-19

On May 21, 2020, the FDA updated two guidance documents for the temporary compounding of certain human drugs during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These updates clarify certain policies to address urgent needs for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

Please be advised that the Board has updated its own guidance to incorporate these policy updates. The Board's compounding resolutions and guidance document can be accessed by visiting:

www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDcompounding

The Board has also updated its outsourcing facility resolution to incorporate FDA's updated temporary policy for outsourcing facilities: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/osf20.

Responsible RestartOhio Requirements for Board of Pharmacy Licensees

On April 30, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order. This order permits all businesses, except those specifically [listed in the order](#), to reopen or remain open as long as all workplace safety standards are met. A copy of the order may be reviewed [here](#).

UPDATED 5/26/2020: *Please be advised that the order issued on April 30, 2020 is applicable to all Board of Pharmacy licensees. Any additional public health orders issued by the Director of Health since April 30, 2020 are related to the operations of businesses that were not deemed essential by the original stay at home order or easing other restrictions (i.e. out-of-state travel).*

The order implements uniform requirements that pharmacies, wholesalers, and other Board of Pharmacy licensees and registrants are required to comply with to remain open. The Board has posted more information about complying with this order and the Responsible RestartOhio requirements here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RestartOhio.

Licensees **are strongly advised to review** the applicable [Responsible RestartOhio Requirements](#). As a reminder, these requirements include the following:

- Ensure minimum of 6 feet between employees, if not possible, install barriers.
- **Businesses must require all employees to wear facial coverings, except for one of the reasons specified in the [Responsible RestartOhio Requirements](#).**
- Ensure minimum 6 feet between customers/patients/etc.
- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment.
- Require employees to stay home if symptomatic.
- Require regular handwashing by employees.
- Place hand sanitizers in high-contact locations.
- Clean high-touch items after each use.

IMPORTANT: The above requirements do not represent an exhaustive list and licensees and registrants should consult the [Responsible RestartOhio Requirements](#) document for further information.

These requirements replace all previously issued guidance on how licensees are to maintain clean and sanitary conditions during COVID-19.

COVID-19 Drug Shortage Resolution and Guidance Document

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals and other healthcare facilities may experience shortages of drugs necessary to care for patients. The Board of Pharmacy, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Health, has developed the following guidance to assist hospitals and other healthcare facilities in obtaining drugs that may not be commercially available from manufacturers or wholesalers. This guidance can be accessed by visiting:

www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDshortage.

Ohio Launches Toll-Free 'COVID Careline' to Provide Emotional Support for Ohioans: 1-800-720-9616

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today joined with Governor Mike DeWine and RecoveryOhio to launch a new, toll-free Careline to provide emotional support for Ohioans who are experiencing stress, anxiety, fear, sadness and loneliness amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohioans may call 1-800-720-9616 to connect with trained counselors for 24/7 support. The Careline is staffed by credentialed counselors who have been trained to provide free, confidential support for a wide range of needs, including mental health concerns, substance use, problem gambling, and more. Individuals experiencing an acute crisis can still reach out to the Ohio Crisis Text Line (keyword 4HOPE to 741 741) or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).



DEA Issues Additional Guidance for Emergency Temporary Sites

The DEA has issued additional guidance for emergency temporary sites, which can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/coronavirus.html>

Licensees that are [registering temporary sites](#) with the Board of Pharmacy and the DEA for the use of controlled substances are expected to comply with this guidance.

Board Office Hours

In order to help contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has closed its offices to the general public and Board staff will be working remotely until further notice. Please be advised that it may take longer than usual to receive a response.

If you need to contact the Board for any reason, please use the [Contact Us](#) form on our website. A member of our staff will reply to your email as soon as possible. Licensees may also contact their assigned Board field staff member.

For emergencies during non-business hours (8 am – 5 pm), the Board’s emergency line is still available by calling the main office number 614-466-4143.

COVID-19 Waivers and Resolutions for Licensees

To allow for licensees to adjust business operations accordingly, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy shall provide a minimum of 30 days’ notice prior to the rescission of any resolutions or waivers issued due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 30-day notice requirement does not apply to any resolution that is based upon authorization of a federal agency or the Governor of the State of Ohio.

Waiver Issue Date	Description	Expiration of the Guidance
3/13/2020 – 6/8/2020	Authorized the practice of remote order entry for all licensed/registered pharmacy personnel (pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and technicians). This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rules for remote order entry by licensed and registered pharmacy personnel go into effect.
3/14/2020 – UPDATED 3/30/2020 & 6/11/2020	Authorized the compounding and sale of certain alcohol-based hand sanitizer products by Ohio-licensed pharmacies and outsourcing facilities. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board or the United States Food and Drug Administration.
3/14/2020 - UPDATED 4/14/2020 & 5/15/2020	Authorized licensees conducting sterile compounding to reuse certain personal protective equipment (PPE). The waiver was updated to align with recently released PPE conservation guidance issued by the FDA. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board or the United States Food and Drug Administration.
3/16/2020 – UPDATED 4/23/2020 & 5/15/2020	Authorized automatic exemptions to rule authorizing the compounding of drugs in shortage (4729-16-10) under certain conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board.
3/16/2020 – UPDATED 6/8/2020	Authorized the extension of emergency refills. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board.
3/16/2020 – UPDATED 3/26/2020 & 6/8/2020	Authorized pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians licensed in other states to work in Ohio pharmacies under certain conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board.

3/16/2020 – UPDATED 3/26/2020	Authorized expedited onboarding of pharmacy technician trainees. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board.
3/16/2020 – UPDATED 3/31/2020, 5/18/2020, 10/9/2020	Authorized an extension of the renewal date for registered pharmacy technicians and automatic technician trainee extensions.	This resolution has been replaced by a change in Ohio law. Click here for more information.
3/18/2020	Authorized prescribers working in an opioid treatment program licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to temporarily delegate personally furnishing of buprenorphine products to nurses licensed under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
3/18/2020	Authorized home delivery of medications by opioid treatment programs under specific conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	This guidance, as is authorized by the Drug Enforcement Administration, shall remain in effect until the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) rescinds the declared public health emergency.
3/18/2020 – UPDATED 6/8/2020, 7/28/2020 & 12/2/2020	Authorized an extension of basic life-support training certifications for pharmacists and pharmacy interns. This resolution can be accessed here .	The pharmacist or intern must obtain recertification no later than May 1, 2021.
3/18/2020 – UPDATED 4/14/2020	Authorized prescribers to delegate personally furnishing non-controlled drugs to nurses licensed in accordance with Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
3/18/2020 – UPDATED 3/20/2020, 6/8/2020 & 8/31/2020	Authorized the temporary expansion of the maximum days’ supply permitted under rules 4729-9-23 and 4729:5-5-18 of the Administrative Code from 31 days to 60 days. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board (formally August 31, 2020).
3/20/2020 – UPDATED 4/23/2020	Authorized licensees to perform sterile compounding for another licensee, referred to as central compounding. This resolution can be accessed here .	This guidance shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
3/20/2020	Authorized registered pharmacy technicians to stock automated drug storage systems and	This guidance is in effect until rescinded by the Board.

	send and receive copies of non-controlled prescriptions, under certain conditions. Additionally, provides clarification on the positive identification requirements for technicians transferring prescriptions. This resolution can be accessed here .	
3/24/2020 – UPDATED 5/6/2020 & 6/8/2020	Authorized an extension of drug distributor customer due diligence requirements pursuant to paragraph (G) of rule 4729:6-3-05 of the Administrative Code. This guidance can be accessed here .	The annual due diligence requirements are hereby extended until November 29, 2020 (formally June 29, 2020).
3/24/2020 – UPDATED 6/8/2020 & 8/31/2020	Authorized expedited licensure of drug distributors. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board (formally August 31, 2020).
3/24/2020 – UPDATED 6/8/2020 & 8/31/2020	Authorized the sale and shipment of non-reportable dangerous drugs that are in shortage by unlicensed, out-of-state facilities. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board (formally August 31, 2020).
3/31/2020 - UPDATED 4/30/2020	Authorized the use of temporary satellite locations for the storage and use of dangerous drugs during COVID-19. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
3/31/2020	Authorized a temporary extension of the annual controlled substance inventory requirements pursuant to rule 4729:5-3-07 of the Administrative Code. This resolution can be accessed here .	For any annual controlled substance inventory during the timeframe set forth in the resolution, the Board hereby extends the date to obtain the annual inventory to August 1, 2020. EXPIRED
4/3/2020, 12/1/2020 – UPDATED 1/11/2020	Permits the temporary reinstatement of lapsed or expired Ohio pharmacist licenses in Ohio under certain conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution has been replaced by a change in the Federal PREP Act. Click here for more information.
4/7/2020	Authorized nurses (LPN, RN, APRN) to stock automated drug storage systems within a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs that has an on-site pharmacy under certain conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board.
4/7/2020 – UPDATED 4/29/2020 &	Authorized pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and certified pharmacy technicians to conduct FDA-authorized COVID-19 testing under	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.

5/27/2020	certain conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	
4/9/2020 EXPIRED	Authorized the delegation to an Ohio-licensed APRN who is designated as a certified nurse practitioner (CNP), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), certified nurse midwife (CNM) or physician assistant (PA) the management of a consult agreement authorized under section 4729.39 of the Revised Code.	This resolution is no longer valid due to a recent law change. For more information, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/consult
4/14/2020 – UPDATED 6/8/2020 & 8/31/2020	Authorized the sale and shipment of patient-specific, non-reportable dangerous drugs by non-Ohio licensed border state facilities to patients residing in the state under certain conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution is in effect until rescinded by the Board (formally August 31, 2020).
4/14/2020	Authorized an Ohio pharmacy to request a temporary waiver to permit a pharmacist to supervise up to five pharmacy technician trainees at one time (up from the current limit of three). This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
4/17/2020 – UPDATED 5/15/2020	Formally adopted FDA’s “ Temporary Policy for Compounding of Certain Drugs for Hospitalized Patients by Outsourcing Facilities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ” for Ohio-licensed outsourcing facilities. This resolution can be accessed here .	This guidance shall remain in effect only for the duration of the public health emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including any renewals made by the HHS Secretary in accordance with section 319(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(a)(2)).
4/17/2020	Authorized the temporary waiver of the 5 percent limit on the occasional wholesale sales of dangerous drugs by a licensed pharmacy set forth in rule 4729:5-3-09 of the Administrative Code. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
4/17/2020	Extends recertification of primary and secondary engineering controls in accordance with guidance issued by USP. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
4/23/2020	Formally adopted FDA’s “ Temporary Policy on Repackaging or Combining Propofol Drug Products During the COVID-19 Public Health ”	This guidance shall remain in effect only for the duration of the public health emergency

	Emergency” for Ohio-licensed pharmacies, repackagers, and outsourcing facilities. This resolution can be accessed here .	related to COVID-19 declared by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including any renewals made by the HHS Secretary in accordance with section 319(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(a)(2)).
6/8/2020	Authorizes a licensed terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) to mail or deliver non-controlled drugs to patients that have been personally furnished by a prescriber that is employed or contracted by the terminal distributor. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board or the Board final files corresponding rules authorizing the shipment of drugs that have been personally furnished by a prescriber.
7/7/2020	Formally adopted FDA’s “ Temporary Policy on Prescription Drug Marketing Act Requirements for Distribution of Drug Samples During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (June 2020) ” authorizing Ohio-licensed drug distributors to deliver drug samples to a patient’s home. This resolution can be accessed here .	This guidance shall remain in effect only for the duration of the Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on January 31, 2020, effective January 27, 2020, including any renewals made by the HHS Secretary in accordance with section 319(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) (42 U.S.C. 247d(a)(2)).
12/14/2020	Permits registered pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees to stock automated pharmacy systems and automated drug storage systems at a location licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs, subject to certain conditions. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
12/14/2020	Authorizes the use of support personnel for packaging shipping containers and to package medications for delivery or sale. This resolution can be accessed here .	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.
12/17/2020	Temporarily suspends in-person training requirements for obtaining BLS in paragraph (M) of rule 4729:1-3-02 and (A)(3) of rule 4729:2-3-03 of the Administrative Code. For more information review the following guidance documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CV2020 	This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDvaccine 	
2/16/2021 - NEW	<p>Temporarily expands the pharmacy intern supervision requirements in OAC 4729:2-1-01 for interns administering COVID-19 vaccine. For more information see Q17 of this guidance document: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDvaccine</p>	<p>This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.</p>

Licensees seeking waivers to Ohio laws and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy or distribution of dangerous drugs due to COVID-19 can submit a request to: compliance@pharmacy.ohio.gov. Please include a detailed justification for the waiver request and the expected time period.

Important COVID-19 Reminders

Compounding and Preparing Fit Test Solutions for PPE

- The Board has received several inquiries regarding the ability of pharmacies to prepare fit-test solutions for personal protective equipment. As these solutions are not considered dangerous drugs, pharmacies are permitted to compound these solutions, as long as they comply with the OSHA requirements set forth in Appendix A to §1910.134, which can be accessed [here](#).

Notification of Closures or Reduction in Hours

- As a reminder, pharmacies and other terminal distributors of dangerous drugs are not required to submit notification to the Board for any temporary closures or reduction in operating hours. If modifying hours of operation, a pharmacy is required to update signage to reflect the change in store hours.

Delivery Services

- Pharmacies are permitted to use couriers, pharmacy staff (including support staff), and other delivery services (i.e. United States postal service or common or contract carrier) to deliver patient medications. Be advised that pharmacies seeking to return drugs to stock shelves that cannot be delivered to the patient are required to have policies and procedures in place pursuant to paragraphs (B)(6) and (B)(8) of rule [4729-5-14](#) of the Administrative Code.
- Additionally, nothing in rule or law prohibits using technicians, interns or support personnel to deliver medications to patients waiting at the store (ex. for curbside pickup).

Providing Services at Alternate Locations

- Pharmacies and other locations licensed as terminal distributors of dangerous drugs can provide services outside of the pharmacy as long as they are on the physical premises of the licensed location (i.e. setting up temporary drive-thru to limit pharmacy personnel exposure, offering immunizations at another location in the store, etc.).
- Pharmacies are reminded that any drugs removed from the pharmacy to provide additional on-site services must be under the supervision of a pharmacist to deter and detect possible diversion. **NOTE:** This does not apply to dispensed medications that are being provided to patients by pharmacy technicians, interns or support personnel (for example, for curbside pickup or temporary drive thru).
- If seeking to provide services off-site (except for delivery) involving drugs, please refer to the temporary off-site requirements in rule [4729:5-3-13](#) of the Administrative Code.

Use of Signatures for Prescription Pick-Up

- Please be advised that the use of signatures for picking up a prescription is not required by Board of Pharmacy rules. For patient counseling, a verbal offer or providing an offer to counsel in writing (i.e. a telephone number where a pharmacist may be reached) is required under the [patient counseling rule](#).

Administration of Testing

- Pharmacy personnel guidance for COVID-19 testing can be accessed [here](#).

Combining Refills

- Section [4729.40](#) of the Revised Code authorizes a pharmacist who is filling or refilling a prescription that has one or more refills to dispense the drug in a quantity or amount that varies from the quantity or amount that would otherwise be dispensed. Guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Emergency Refills

- Ohio law authorizes a pharmacist to dispense medications without a prescription under certain conditions. Updated guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Pharmacist Consult Agreements

- Ohio law authorizes one or more pharmacists practicing under a consult agreement with one or more physicians to (1) manage a patient's drug therapy (including authorizing refills) for specified diagnoses or diseases; and (2) order and evaluate blood and urine tests. Guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Boards of Health – Public Health Emergencies

- The Board has issued the following resolutions that apply to local boards of health during public health emergencies:
 - Temporary Removal of Drugs: The Board authorized a board of health, as defined in section 3701.048 of the Revised Code, that is licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to temporarily remove dangerous drugs upon the governor's declaration of an emergency that affects public health. A complete copy of the resolution can be accessed [here](#).
 - Waiver of Wholesale Licensure Requirements: Pursuant to section 4729.25 of the Revised Code, the Board finds it is in the public's interest to waive the drug distributor licensure requirements pursuant to section 4729.52 of the Revised Code for a board of health, as defined in section 3701.048 of the Revised Code, that is licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) for the purpose of distributing dangerous drugs to another TDDD during a declared public health emergency or emergency preparedness incident. A complete copy of the resolution can be accessed [here](#).

Naloxone Distribution by Mail or Delivery Personnel

- The Board has authorized the distribution of naloxone via mail (or other contract carrier) or delivery personnel. A complete copy of the resolution can be accessed [here](#).