



Immunizations by Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns

Updated 10/7/2025

NOTE: All COVID-19 information has been incorporated into this guidance.

[Section 4729.41 of the Ohio Revised Code](#) authorizes a pharmacist or pharmacy intern, certified pharmacy technician, or registered pharmacy technician working under the direct supervision of a pharmacist to administer, subject to a prescriber protocol, the following immunizations:

- Any immunization for any disease, including immunizations for influenza and COVID-19, to individuals 5 years old or older without a prescription.

The rules on immunization administration can be accessed using the following links:

- [4729:1-3-02 Immunization administration by pharmacists.](#)
- [4729:2-3-03 Immunization administration by pharmacy interns.](#)
- [4729:3-3-06 Immunization administration by pharmacy technicians.](#)

Per Ohio law, the following prescribers may authorize an immunization protocol:

1. A physician authorized under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery; or
2. A certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse practitioner licensed under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code.

**This guidance applies to requirements for pharmacists and pharmacy interns.
Immunization administration guidance for pharmacy technicians is available by
visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/techimmunize.**

IMPORTANT: 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.

For questions regarding immunization administration, please review the following frequently asked questions. If you need additional information, the most expedient way to have your questions answered will be to e-mail the Board office by visiting:

<http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact.aspx>.

Q1) How does an Ohio pharmacist or pharmacy intern become authorized to administer immunizations?

A pharmacist or pharmacy intern is required to do all of the following to be authorized to administer immunizations pursuant to Ohio law:

- (1) Successfully complete a course in the administration of immunizations that meets the requirements established in rules by the Board of Pharmacy. Course requirements are listed in paragraph (A) of OAC [4729:1-3-02](#).
- (2) Receive and maintain certification to perform basic life-support procedures by successfully completing a basic life-support training course that is certified by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association or approved by the Board of Pharmacy. *See Q9 for more information on this requirement.*
- (3) Practice in accordance with a definitive set of treatment guidelines specified in a protocol established by a prescriber that meets the requirements set forth in rule by the Board of Pharmacy.

Requirements for immunization protocols can be found in paragraph (D) of OAC [4729:1-3-02](#).

NOTE: The following are permitted to authorize a pharmacy immunization protocol:

1. A physician authorized under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery; or
2. A certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse practitioner licensed under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code.

Q2) Some pharmacy journals include continuing education on vaccines. May I take one of those courses to fulfill my obligations for immunization training?

All training programs must comply with the requirements of paragraph (A) of OAC [4729:1-3-02](#).

Q3) Can I administer the rabies vaccine?

Yes, if it is administered in accordance with the prescriber-authorized protocol.

Q4) Can I administer B12 injections or allergy shots?

The administration of allergy shots by a pharmacist or pharmacy intern is not permitted by law. The administration of B12 injections is permissible. For more information on B12 and other injections, please visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/injections.

Q5) Am I required to obtain consent from a minor's parent or guardian prior to the administration of an immunization?

Yes. For each immunization administered by a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to an individual younger than eighteen years of age, the pharmacist or a pharmacy intern shall obtain permission from the individual's parent or legal guardian. Informed consent must be obtained pursuant to OAC [4729:5-5-04](#) to administer an immunization.

Q6) What are the record keeping requirements for pharmacist and pharmacy intern administering immunizations?

OAC [4729:5-5-04](#) (l) states that all immunization records must be maintained for three years and shall include the following information:

- (1) Full name and address of the patient;
- (2) Patient's date of birth or age;
- (3) Patient's applicable allergy information;

- (4) Date of administration;
- (5) Name, strength, and dose of the immunization administered;
- (6) Lot number and expiration date of the immunization;
- (7) Route of administration;
- (8) Location of the injection site;
- (9) Positive identification of the administering pharmacist or the administering pharmacy intern and supervising pharmacist;
- (10) Identification of the patient, parent, or legal guardian of the patient who gives informed consent to administer the immunization.

Q7) What are the requirements for a prescriber-established protocol?

Per OAC [4729:1-3-02](#) (D), a prescriber-established protocol for the administration of immunizations shall include the following:

- (1) For each immunization authorized:
 - (a) Name and strength;
 - (b) Precautions and contraindications;
 - (c) Intended audience or patient population;
 - (d) Dosage;
 - (e) Administration schedules;
 - (f) Routes of administration; and
 - (g) Injection sites.

(2) The length of time the pharmacist, pharmacy intern, certified pharmacy technician, or registered pharmacy technician under the direct supervision of a pharmacist must observe an individual for adverse effects, which shall be based on appropriate standards of care established by the prescriber. The location of the observation shall be in the general vicinity of the administering pharmacist, pharmacy intern, certified pharmacy technician, or registered pharmacy technician to allow for on-going evaluation.

(3) A method to address emergency situations including, but not limited to, adverse reactions, anaphylactic reactions, and accidental needle sticks.

(4) A method to notify an individual's primary care provider or the applicable board of health within thirty days after administering an immunization, except for influenza immunizations administered to individuals eighteen years of age and older.

(5) The locations that a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, certified pharmacy technician, or registered pharmacy technician under the direct supervision of a pharmacist may engage in the administration of immunizations.

Q8) Can a pharmacy intern that has completed the required immunization training administer immunizations under the direct supervision of a pharmacist who has not completed the required immunization training?

No. A pharmacy intern cannot practice outside of the scope of their supervising pharmacist.

Q9) What basic life-support training courses satisfy the requirements of the law?

The Board has determined that a pharmacist or intern may satisfy this training requirement by completing a certified course that either provides CPR & AED training for lay people or a more advanced basic life-support training course for healthcare providers.

For the American Red Cross: This includes either [CPR/AED](#) (note First Aid is not required) or the more advanced [Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers \(BLS\)](#).

For the American Heart Association: This includes either [Heartsaver® CPR AED](#) or the more advanced [Cardiovascular Life Support \(CLS\)](#).

For the American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI): [Adult First Aid | CPR AED](#) or [Basic Life Support](#) Certification.

As a reminder, pharmacists and interns are also required to maintain such certification in order to legally administer immunizations pursuant to the law.

NOTE: *A course that offers a blended learning model (offering in-person training and self-directed learning) meets the requirements of the law.*

Q10) Am I required to follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations under Ohio law?

No. Updates to section 4729.41 (effective 5/13/2021) have removed requirements to adhere to ACIP recommendations. Pharmacists and interns must still comply with the requirements set forth in their prescriber-established protocol.

REMEMBER: YOU CANNOT ADMINISTER IMMUNIZATIONS THAT ARE NOT ON YOUR PRESCRIBER-ESTABLISHED PROTOCOL.

Q11) Are there any notification requirements?

Yes. For each immunization administered under Ohio law, other than an immunization for influenza administered to an individual eighteen years of age or older, the pharmacist or pharmacy intern shall notify the individual's primary care provider or, if the individual has no primary care provider, the board of health of the health district in which the individual resides. The notice shall be given not later than thirty days after the immunization is administered.

Notification shall be conducted using one of the following methods that is capable of confirming delivery of the required notification:

- (1) Electronic mail;
- (2) Interoperable electronic medical records system;
- (3) Facsimile;
- (4) Electronic prescribing system;
- (5) Electronic pharmacy record system;
- (6) Documented verbal communication;
- (7) Reporting to the state's immunization registry; or
- (8) Any other method of notification that might reasonably be expected to allow for the confirmed transmission of the required notification.

Q12) Am I required to provide information on the importance of well child visits?

Yes. For each immunization administered by a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, certified pharmacy technician, or registered pharmacy technician to an individual who is younger than eighteen years of age, the pharmacist, pharmacy intern, certified pharmacy technician, or registered pharmacy technician shall inform the individual's parent or legal guardian of the importance of well child visits with a pediatrician or other primary care provider and shall refer patients when appropriate.

- The American Pharmacist Association has a handout that covers the importance of well-child visits: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/WellChild
- The American Academy of Pediatrics offers information on well-child visits, including informational handouts. [Click here for more information.](#)

Q13) What type of documentation must be maintained to ensure compliance with the rule?

A pharmacist or pharmacy intern shall maintain the following records on file at the location(s) where the pharmacist or pharmacy intern administers immunizations:

1. Proof of successful completion of a training course; and
2. Proof of maintenance of certification to perform basic life-support procedures.

Q14) Is it still permissible to administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines under the federal PREP Act?

Yes. The federal PREP Act authorization was extended until 2029. For more information see [Appendix I](#) of this document and visit:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29108/12th-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>

Q15) Are the Board's COVID-19 immunization waivers still in effect?

On October 6, 2025, the Board voted to rescind the remaining four COVID-19 immunization waivers. These waivers are set to expire on November 3, 2025. For more information on these waivers, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID.

Appendix I – Federal COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Requirements

For more information, see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29108/12th-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>

	Summary of Federal PREP Act Requirements for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns
Age of Administration	The federal authorization permits the administration of any FDA-approved or FDA-licensed COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccines (including those under an EUA) to persons ages 3 or older.
Prescriber Approved Protocol	No prescriber-approved protocol is required, as pharmacists are authorized to order COVID-19 vaccines under the federal guidance.
Training Requirements	The licensed pharmacist or pharmacy intern must have completed the immunization training that the licensing state requires.
Basic Life Support Training	The licensed pharmacist and licensed or registered pharmacy intern must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
Continuing Education	The licensed pharmacist must complete a minimum of two hours of ACPE-approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education during each state licensing period. NOTE: Not a requirement for a pharmacy intern.
Record keeping	The licensed pharmacist or pharmacy intern must comply with record keeping and reporting requirements of the jurisdiction in which they administer vaccines.

	Immunization records shall be maintained in accordance with rule 4729:5-5-04 of the Administrative Code.
Reporting	The licensed pharmacist or pharmacy intern must comply with Ohio’s reporting requirements.
Well-Child Visit Reminder	The licensed pharmacist must, if the patient is 18 years of age or younger, 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.
Vaccine Register Query	<p>The supervising qualified pharmacist must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to ordering the vaccination to be administered by the pharmacy intern or technician.</p> <p>Otherwise, the administering pharmacist must review the vaccine registry or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine.</p>