

# Pharmacy Technician Vaccination Authority



**Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians have played a lifesaving role in our nation's rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and continue to provide recommended vaccines to people living in America. These professionals are well-positioned to increase access to vaccinations—particularly in areas that have too few primary care providers and for those who are otherwise medically underserved.**

## Impact During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Under the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#), as of February 2, 2022, more than 227 million COVID-19 vaccination doses have been administered and reported by retail pharmacies across programs in the United States. Pharmacy technicians played a key role in this success.<sup>1</sup> Pharmacies improved COVID-19 vaccine equity among patients of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. However, routine immunization continues to lag below pre-pandemic levels, highlighting the continuing effect of COVID-19 on routine vaccination.<sup>2</sup>

On August 19, 2021, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) issued guidance for licensed pharmacists and pharmacy interns regarding COVID-19 vaccines and immunity under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act), which among other things, authorizes pharmacy technicians and interns to administer both childhood vaccines (i.e. hepatitis b; measles, mumps, rubella (MMR); varicella; etc.) and COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>3</sup> In 2021, the U.S. Department of Health extended the PREP Act coverage to allow pharmacy technicians to administer COVID-19 vaccines, ACIP-recommended pediatric vaccines, and seasonal influenza vaccines for adults. This temporary authority is set to expire after the COVID-19 public health emergency.<sup>4</sup>

## Accessibility & Trust

Pharmacy technicians are critical in supporting vaccine delivery services, including initiating conversations with patients on vaccine opportunities and administering vaccines. Pharmacies are readily accessible in communities—with most people living within five miles of a pharmacy. Increasing the number of places where people can get vaccinated will help ensure more people are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

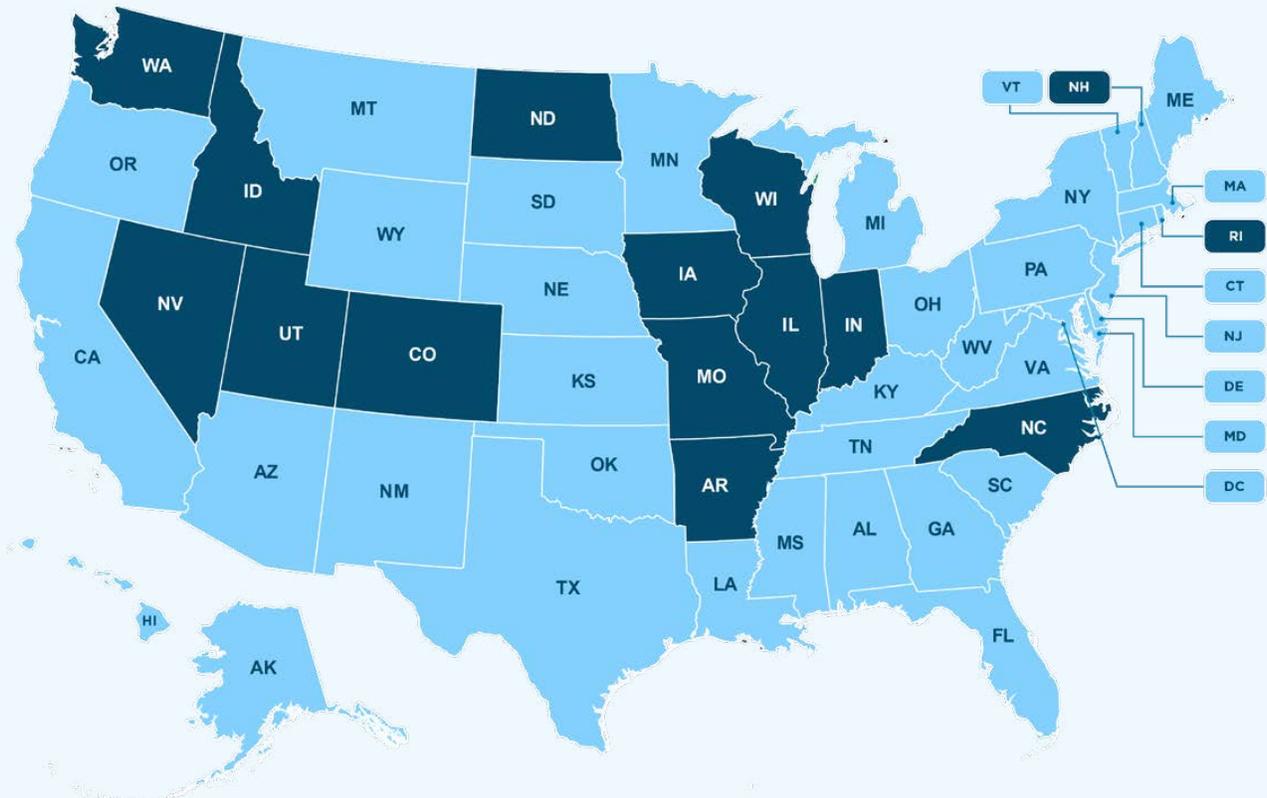
During the pandemic, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians were primary health care professionals in the community with direct access to patients on a regular basis. Pharmacies are open in the evening and on weekends, making them easier to reach for those whose work schedules aren't flexible.

According to a study published in the *Journal of Pharmacy Technology* that examined the experiences of Black Americans with pharmacy-based services, an overwhelming number of patients: “prefer to receive their vaccinations from a pharmacy, as opposed to their doctor’s office because it was easier to access the pharmacy of their choice from their residence.”<sup>5</sup>

## Current State of Pharmacy Technicians' Vaccination Authority

Pharmacy technicians have been administering vaccinations since 2017. Since then, the practice of pharmacy technicians administering vaccinations has grown, as additional states have granted permanent approval for pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations. As of January 2022, pharmacy technicians may permanently administer vaccines in **15 states**.

The American Disease Prevention Coalition urges all states to update their laws to ensure that pharmacy technicians are permanently permitted to administer vaccines. Doing so will ensure people's long-term health and well-being moving forward.



### MAP LEGEND

 Pharmacy technicians are permanently permitted to administer vaccines.  Pharmacy technicians are NOT permanently permitted to administer vaccines.

## About the American Disease Prevention Coalition

The American Disease Prevention Coalition advocates for state legislation that enables pharmacists to administer adult immunizations recommended by the CDC within Recommended Immunization Schedules; immunizations or vaccines recommended in the CDC's Health Information for International Travel; and those approved or authorized by the United States FDA for Use in the United States—under pharmacist's own authority, similar to how other vaccine providers initiate and administer vaccines.

### Sources

1 <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/retail-pharmacy-program/index.html>

2 <https://avalere.com/insights/declines-in-routine-adult-and-teen-vaccinations-continued-in-2021>

3 <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>

4 <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>

5 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6231280/>

 @ADPCVaccines

 @AmericanDiseasePreventionCoalition



**#VACCINES SHOULDN'T WAIT**  
[www.VaccinesShouldntWait.org](http://www.VaccinesShouldntWait.org)