



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1135 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Vaccination Orders– Letter of Support

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 1135 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Vaccination Orders. This bill authorizes a pharmacist to order certain vaccinations for individuals who are at least three years old without having to also administer the vaccination.

Under current Maryland law, the same pharmacist who orders the vaccine must be the one to physically administer the shot. HB 1135 modernizes this practice by allowing a pharmacist to clinically authorize and distribute certain vaccines (i.e., influenza, COVID-19, or vaccines used in response to a public health emergency) for anyone aged three or older without requiring the pharmacist to administer the vaccine. This change offers greater flexibility, allowing pharmacists to order eligible vaccines for self-administration by the patient or parent of a patient, such as with the intranasal influenza vaccine. The bill would help further increase access to immunizations for Marylanders.

HB 1135 aligns with existing healthcare standards, as Maryland residents already self-administer a wide range of medications at home. Pharmacists also routinely dispense other injectable medications for a patient to take at home, including intramuscular injections like EpiPens or subcutaneous injections such as insulin. HB 1135 ensures that vaccines are accessible by providing Maryland families with more options for where and when they receive care. Improving access to vaccines is essential for strengthening public health and protecting communities against preventable disease.

For these reasons, the Department urges a favorable report on HB 1135. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at meghan.lynch@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.
Secretary of Health