

Maintain Maryland's Access to Pharmacy Vaccines

Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Lesley Lopez

SB372/HB1234:

Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines

*The Federal Public Health Emergency
expires May 11.*



**MARYLAND ASSOCIATION
OF CHAIN DRUG STORES**

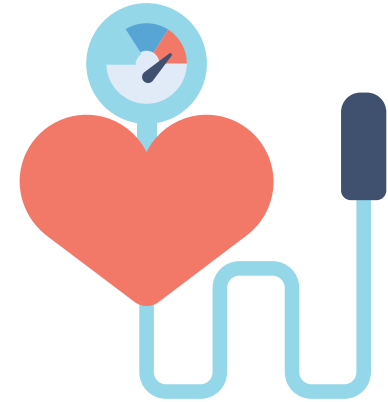
When the US shut down in 2020,
pharmacies stayed open and provided Marylanders the critically needed
healthcare services they now expect – including **3.6 MILLION** immunizations



vaccine services



testing services



health screenings



needed medications



counseling on
important health issues

What is the PREP Act?

- The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) authorizes the US Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a PREP Act declaration to address a public health emergency.
- March 17, 2020, **a PREP Act Declaration was issued** to deal with COVID-19.
- April 20, 2020, pharmacists authorized to order and administer FDA-authorized COVID-19 tests.
- On August 20, 2020, the PREP Act was amended to allow pharmacists to provide a large number of health services including ACIP-recommended vaccinations to patients 3 years and older.
- On October 20, 2020, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns were authorized to administer childhood vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines, and COVID-19 testing; on August 4, 2021, they were further authorized to administer seasonal flu vaccines.
- The PREP Act preempts state law.
- In 2021, the Maryland legislature codified pharmacists' ability to immunize children down to the age of 3. The bill will sunset June 1 of this year.
- The separate Federal Public Health Emergency ends May 11, 2023.

National Proven Track Record of Safety and Patient Trust

“We built it and they came”

- >300 million COVID-19 vaccinations administered nationally to date in EVERY State – more than 3.6 million in Maryland alone
- >20,000 COVID-19 testing sites nationwide
- Thousands of locations nationwide providing access to COVID-19 antivirals
- Pharmacies provide more than 2 of every 3 COVID-19 vaccine doses
- >30% of children ages 5 to 11 who have received their COVID-19 vaccination have done so at a pharmacy
- 50% of pharmacy COVID-19 vaccination sites located in areas with high social vulnerability
- 70% of pharmacy testing sites in areas with moderate to severe social vulnerability
- >40% of those vaccinated at pharmacies were from racial and ethnic minority groups
- Medicare beneficiary claim data from Omnisys shows that pharmacies had a 31% greater impact on COVID-19 vaccines in rural areas where there is less access to care
- Located in nearly every community in MD, and open after work and school and on weekends without an appointment necessary

In Maryland and other states, these significant contributions were largely made possible by flexibilities granted during the Public Health Emergency under the Federal PREP Act declaration. Without action, these flexibilities will expire, rolling back essential and equitable access for the American people.

Marylanders now expect more healthcare services from their neighborhood pharmacy

- To provide the public with the level of services they have come to expect, Maryland lawmakers should permanently codify the PREP Act.
- On January 30th, President Biden announced that the Public Health Emergency will end on May 11, 2023, likely beginning a cascade of rollback on pandemic flexibilities.
- The public now expects point-of-care testing and a full portfolio of vaccine services at pharmacies, which requires the full use of the skills and expertise of the pharmacy team
- Current Maryland law does not match the allowances in the PREP Act and will leave critical gaps in care resulting in public confusion and frustration around access if it expires before these services are permanently allowed in our State.

Gaps in MD Law vs. PREP Act Authorities

	Authorized under PREP Act	Authorized under MD Law
Pharmacist order & administer vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID; 3 yrs and older • ACIP-recommended (including flu); 3-18 yrs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu; 9 yrs and older (11+ with prescription) • Specific vaccinations under written protocol
Pharmacy intern administer vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID; 3 yrs and older • ACIP-recommended (including flu); 3-18 yrs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu; 9 yrs+ under pharmacist supervision & written protocol
Pharmacy technicians administer vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID; 3 yrs and older • ACIP-recommended (including flu); 3-18 yrs • Flu to adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not authorized
Pharmacist order & administer COVID-19 test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Authorized
Pharmacy technician and pharmacy interns administer COVID-19 test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Authorized
Pharmacists provide treatment per CLIA-Waived Test Results (i.e. Tamiflu for positive flu test)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Authorized

Safety and the Bill's Requirements

The PREP Act and this bill requires the following for immunizations administered by pharmacy personnel:

- A 20 hour training program, including injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines and the recognition and treatment of emergency treatment of reactions
- CPR certification
- Continuing education
- All healthcare providers MUST report into the State's Immunet system
- Record keeping and corresponding regulations adopted by The Board of Pharmacy
- Informs each patient and adult caregiver the importance of well-care child visits and refers them when appropriate

- **STATE BY STATE PREP ACT POLLING RESULTS**

- (survey commissioned by NACDS and conducted by Morning Consult December 7-12, 2022;)**Vaccine-Specific Questions:**

- ***Do you support or oppose pharmacists doing each of the following? Administering***

- ***COVID-19 vaccinations***

- % who support in:

- WV: 70%

- MN: 79%

- MD: 82%

- MI: 76%

- OH: 76%

- PA: 78%

- ***Do you support or oppose pharmacists doing each of the following? Administering***

- ***routine vaccinations (i.e., flu vaccinations, Tdap, tuberculosis)***

- % who support in:

- WV: 80%

- MN: 84%

- MD: 85%

- MI: 82%

- OH: 82%

- PA: 83%