



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

March 25, 2026

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

RE: Senate Bill 773 – 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 Senate Bill (SB) 773 – 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. SB 773 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.

SB 773 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. SB 773 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 respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 773. 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