

The truth about pharmacy-delivered vaccines.



Vaccines have dramatically reduced the threat of diseases that were once widespread and often fatal. They help reduce costs to both patients and the healthcare system by limiting the spread of illnesses.¹

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends immunization against 17 infectious diseases.² The American Disease Prevention Coalition (ADPC) is dedicated to making more vaccines available in local pharmacies. Here, we've addressed some concerns people may have about proposed legislation to move us closer to this goal.



Who stands to benefit the most from this legislation, and why?

Patients will benefit most. Roughly nine out of ten Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy. Pharmacies provide the public with cost-effective vaccine services, and with multiple locations in metropolitan and urban areas and extended hours, local pharmacies address many factors that can increase immunization rates. From 2011–2012, 20.1% of U.S. adults received their flu vaccinations at a supermarket or drugstore—18.4% more than the year before.

Most immunizing pharmacies will vaccinate without an appointment, require almost no waiting, and are usually open longer than doctors' offices. Many patients take advantage of the increased access and convenience, especially younger, healthier adults for whom immunization rates tend to be lower.³



Why is it a good idea to enable pharmacists to administer the full array of vaccines?

Pharmacists educated in vaccine delivery can provide a convenient and accessible alternative to the doctor's office. As one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, they can help patients make informed immunization choices, and may be able to ease their fears by stating the facts as well as the risks from not being vaccinated.⁴ They're also able to identify patients in target groups for certain vaccinations. And they can also raise awareness, as many patients believe that only the flu vaccine is available in pharmacies.



Why should laws give pharmacists more authority to provide vaccines?

In many states, pharmacists have no autonomous authority to provide vaccines and require permission from physicians or other prescribers, who don't always authorize all vaccine types. This creates administrative challenges for the pharmacists and can lead to delays for patients who come seeking certain vaccines.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). 2020 Topics & Objectives; Immunization and Infectious Diseases. Retrieved 12 Dec. 2013 from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=23>

² <http://www.pharmacytimes.com/publications/issue/2010/january2010/featurefocusvaccinations-0110>

³ <https://www.dovepress.com/the-role-of-community-pharmacy-based-vaccination-in-the-usa-current-pr-peer-reviewed-fulltext-article-IPRP>

⁴ <http://www.pharmacytimes.com/publications/issue/2010/january2010/featurefocusvaccinations-0110>