

District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy Statement on Immunization Services Under DHHS Guidance

On October 20, 2020, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) issued the [third amendment](#) to a declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (or PREP Act). This declaration provides liability protection and authorizes both qualified pharmacy technicians and State-authorized pharmacy interns acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist to administer FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed COVID-19 vaccines to persons ages three or older and to administer FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed ACIP-recommended vaccines to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule. The DHHS guidance lists requirements that qualified pharmacy technicians and State-authorized pharmacy interns must satisfy.

The declaration states that the authorization preempts any state and local law that prohibits or effectively prohibits those who satisfy requirements as set forth in the declaration from administering COVID-19 or routine childhood vaccines. The District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy will not take disciplinary action against persons who act in accordance with this DHHS guidance considering DHHS's position that state law is preempted. The Board does not take a position on whether DHHS's position on the preemption of state law is valid. If a complaint is received relating to activities covered under DHHS guidance, the Board will expect the licensee to provide documentation of full compliance. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.