

**Unprecedented Opportunity.** Public access to healthcare during this pandemic has become more challenging. Pharmacies have kept their doors open – allowing ready access to care and education by pharmacists. Pharmacists have taken on new roles – including planning and executing novel vaccine storage and delivery. **You, as a student pharmacist, have a vital role to contribute in each environment you practice.** Your ability to listen to a patient, gather information and actively participate in the flow of care to people is critical. The opportunity to demonstrate the value you bring to the people you serve has never been so clear to the public. This document provides background and guidance for how you can be involved in COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

**COVID-19 Vaccinations.** The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has specifically recognized the contribution of pharmacy interns in administering and supporting vaccinations through a series of emergency waivers (see timeline, Appendix A). The Pennsylvania Department of Health further recognized pharmacy interns by expanding authorization to administer vaccinations to people ages 18 and older, and age-appropriate influenza vaccine to children ages 3 to 18 (see timeline, Appendix A).

#### **Your Role.**

1. **Be knowledgeable** and able to provide education to people regarding vaccinations based on available evidence. (see Appendix B for resources).
2. **Be ready to assist** with workflow of vaccination delivery (see Appendix C for guidance).
3. **Consider how you can be trained, or use your training, for vaccination delivery.**

#### **Resources for You.**

- Pharmacy Intern Vaccination Opportunities Page 2
- PittPharmacy Vaccinator Guidance Page 3
- Tools and Resources Page 4
- Faculty Contact List Page 8

### **Pennsylvania Pharmacy Interns.**

In order to immunize, **students must have a/an:**

1. Active Pennsylvania Pharmacy Intern license/registration.
2. Certificate of Completion from the APhA Pharmacy-Based Immunization Program (mandated training).
3. Active CPR certification (basic life support).

Once these criteria are met, students must submit an “intent to vaccinate” form (Appendix D) to the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy via email [ST-PHARMACY@pa.gov](mailto:ST-PHARMACY@pa.gov) prior to administering vaccine for the first time. You will need the name and immunization license number of your supervising pharmacist to complete the form.

- o Note: The supervising pharmacist cannot be the pharmacist that conducts the large group student training programs. You do not need additional waiver forms if you are vaccinating in multiple clinics or pharmacies.

This waiver shall extend for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, plus an additional 90 days after the emergency ends.

### **Pharmacy Interns Outside Pennsylvania.**

Must follow the guidelines of the state and pharmacy/clinic you are practicing within.

### **Volunteering in Pennsylvania.**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) is seeking registered pharmacy interns from all seven Pennsylvania pharmacy schools to sign up as potential volunteers for their upcoming **COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Clinics**. Over the next several months, the PA DOH will be holding mass vaccination clinics across Pennsylvania. By signing up, you will receive notifications of when volunteer opportunities arise. You may also sign up for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) at the same time. Here are the steps to sign up:

1. Go to the SERVPA home page: <https://www.serv.pa.gov>
2. Click on the registration link.
3. Under “Organization” click “Add Organizations.” This is where you can sign up as a potential volunteer for either the mass vaccination clinics and/or the MRC.
  - a. Select “COVID Mass Vaccination (PADOH); Click on the + and select “University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy” from the drop-down selections
  - b. Select Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Organizations; Click on the + and select the desired county
4. Under “Occupation type” select “medical.”
  - a. Under “Occupation” select “Pharmacist.”
  - b. Under “Current Professional Status” select “Non-Licensed and Student”
5. Fill in any other remaining required information.

**PittPharmacy Student Vaccinator Guidance.** PittPharmacy has established the following guidance for student, pharmacist, and patient safety:

- **Carry Your Intern License and Waiver Form.**
  - Students should carry a copy of their Pennsylvania Pharmacy Intern license and a copy of their completed immunization waiver form, CPR card and APhA Immunization Training Program certificate to each clinic/pharmacy site.
- **Following State-specific and Pharmacy/Clinic-specific Guidelines is a MUST.**
  - In Pennsylvania, the pharmacist overseeing intern administration of immunizations at any mass immunization clinic, community, or health system-sponsored event must be a licensed pharmacist authorized in Pennsylvania to immunize.
  - Outside of Pennsylvania, students must follow those state-specific guidelines.
- **Know your Role.**
  - Students may participate in immunization clinics by aiding with patient screening and intake, vaccine preparation, patient observation, administering approved vaccines, documentation and assuring overall safe clinic operation.
  - Students must follow the directive of the immunizing pharmacist regarding their exact role during the clinic.
- **Recommendation – Professional Liability Insurance.**
  - Although not required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is strongly recommended that students obtain individual professional liability insurance. Student insurance can be obtained at Pharmacists' Mutual ([www.phmic.com](http://www.phmic.com)) or the Healthcare Providers Service Organization (<http://www.hpso.com/individuals/professional-liability/student-malpractice-insurance-coverage-description>).
- **Volunteer Hours can count toward IPPE Project Hours.**
  - Students who volunteer for vaccine clinics (in any state) may obtain IPPE patient care project hours. Students should document their participation using the Pitt Pharmacy IPPE Patient Care Project Hours Activity Log, and complete a reflection for their experience. Forms and reflection should be sent to Prof. Skledar ([sjs15@pitt.edu](mailto:sjs15@pitt.edu)), and the reflection should be posted to the student's portfolio under the relevant PharmD program outcome.

## Tools and Resources.

### Appendix A: Timeline of Federal and Pennsylvania COVID-19 Emergency Waivers – Pharmacy Interns

See Page 5

### Appendix B: COVID-19 Immunization Resources for Pharmacists and Students

General Information:

1. **American Pharmacists Association: Breaking News Weekly webinars:**  
[https://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus/weekly-webinars?is\\_sso\\_called=1](https://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus/weekly-webinars?is_sso_called=1)
2. **American Society of Health System Pharmacists COVID Vaccine Information:**  
<https://www.ashp.org/COVID-19?loginreturnUrl=SSOCheckOnly>
3. **CDC: What every clinician should know about COVID-19 Vaccine Safety:**  
[https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo\\_121420.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_121420.asp)

Pennsylvania Pharmacy COVID Updates:

4. **Pennsylvania Department of State: Pennsylvania Expands Authority of Supervised Pharmacy Interns to Administer Vaccines:** Available from:  
<https://www.dos.pa.gov/Pages/2020-12-08-waiver-pharmacy-interns-administer-vaccines.aspx> Accessed December 18, 2020
5. **Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association:** <https://www.papharmacists.com/page/Coronavirus>

### Appendix C: Community Pharmacy Workflow Recommendations:

**COVID-19 Vaccine Playbook for Pennsylvania’s Independent Community Pharmacies.**

PittPharmacy publication applicable to all community pharmacies.

Available from: <https://www.clip.pharmacy.pitt.edu/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-playbook-for-pennsylvanias-independent-community-pharmacies/> Accessed December 20, 2020

### Appendix D: Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy Intern Immunization Waiver Form

See Page 7

### Appendix E: Faculty Contact List for Questions

See Page 8

## Appendix A: Timeline of Federal and Pennsylvania COVID-19 Emergency Waivers - Pharmacy Interns

August 19, 2020:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **Expands Access to Childhood Vaccines during COVID-19 Pandemic – specifically including pharmacy interns:**

- “The amendment authorizes State-licensed pharmacists (and pharmacy interns acting under their supervision to administer vaccines, if the pharmacy intern is licensed or registered by his or her State board of pharmacy) to order and administer vaccines to individuals ages three through 18 years...”

Available from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/19/hhs-expands-access-childhood-vaccines-during-covid-19-pandemic.html> Accessed December 20, 2020

September 3, 2020:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance for **Licensed Pharmacists and Pharmacy Interns Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines** and Immunity under the PREP ACT - states:

- “...**state-licensed or registered pharmacy interns** acting under the supervision of the qualified pharmacist to administer, to persons ages three or older COVID-19 vaccinations that have been authorized or licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).”

Available from: <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf> Accessed December 20, 2020

October 20, 2020:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance for PREP Act Coverage for Qualified Pharmacy Technicians and **State-Authorized Pharmacy Interns for Childhood Vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccines, and COVID-19 Testing**

- “This guidance clarifies that the pharmacy intern must be authorized by the state or board of pharmacy in the state in which the practical pharmacy internship occurs, but this authorization need not take the form of a license from, or registration with, the State board of pharmacy.”

Available from: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>  
Accessed December 18, 2020

November 12, 2020:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services partners with chain and independent pharmacies to increase access to future COVID-19 vaccines – states:

- “... pharmacists, **pharmacy interns**, and pharmacy technicians also provide vaccinations in retail and grocery stores. Therefore, pharmacy vaccinators are crucial public health partners for increasing access and convenience of COVID-19 vaccines. Many pharmacists and the **interns** and technicians working under their supervision are trained to provide immunizations and are already important immunizers in their communities.”

Available from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/11/12/trump-administration-partners-chain-independent-community-pharmacies-increase-access-future-covid-19-vaccines.html>  
Accessed December 18, 2020

November 22, 2020:

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported Pennsylvania's Plan for COVID vaccine distribution – including the **PA Department of Health's plan to work with pharmacy interns (students) during the mass vaccination clinics:**

- “State and local officials also plan to set up mass vaccination clinic in each county in the state, with **the department working with the seven Pennsylvania schools of pharmacy** to recruit and enroll pharmacy students as vaccinators at those centers.”

Available from : <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2020/11/22/COVID-19-vaccine-progress-Pfizer-Moderna-Allegheny-County-Rachel-Levine/stories/202011220027>

Accessed December 18, 2020

December 8, 2020:

**Pennsylvania Department of Health expands authority of supervised pharmacy interns to administer vaccines.**

- “...authorizes **pharmacy interns to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to persons who are at least 18 years of age**, but only under the direct, immediate and personal supervision of a licensed pharmacist who holds an active authorization to administer injectable medications.” And “... **temporarily, pharmacy interns may administer any age-appropriate influenza vaccination to children 3 years of age and older.**”

- “**Before administering a vaccine for the first time**, registered pharmacy interns who have completed the required education and training are required to notify the Board at [ST-PHARMACY@pa.gov](mailto:ST-PHARMACY@pa.gov) in writing of their intent to proceed to administer vaccines under the provisions of this waiver and provide the Board with their supervising Pharmacist's name, license number and authorization to administer injectable medications number.”

Available from: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Pages/2020-12-08-waiver-pharmacy-interns-administer-vaccines.aspx> Accessed December 18, 2020

December 16, 2020:

**Pitt Pharmacy students “Vaccinate the Vaccinators.”**

- Available from: <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/12/16/coronavirus-vaccinators-vaccinated/> Accessed December 18, 2020
- Available from: <https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/news/vaccinating-vaccinators> Accessed December 18, 2020

# Pennsylvania Registered Pharmacy Intern: Intent to Administer Vaccines under Supervision

## Background:

On December 8, 2020, Pennsylvania Department of State expanded authority of supervised pharmacy interns to administer vaccines. By completing this form, registered pharmacy interns can provide age-appropriate influenza vaccinations to children 3 years of age and older and vaccinations to anyone 18 years of age or older, including COVID-19 vaccine, when available, under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist who holds an active authorization to administer injectable medications.

Full statement available: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Pages/2020-12-08-waiver-pharmacy-interns-administer-vaccines.aspx>

**The following MUST be completed and emailed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy BEFORE administering a vaccine for the first time:**

- Pharmacy Intern Name (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial): \_\_\_\_\_
- Pennsylvania Pharmacy Intern License Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Supervising Pharmacist Name (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial): \_\_\_\_\_
- Supervising Pharmacist Pennsylvania License Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Supervising Pharmacist Pennsylvania License to Administer Injectable Medications Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I attest that I have completed required immunization training on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) and have a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate active until \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registered Pharmacy Intern Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This form MUST be emailed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy BEFORE administering a vaccine for the first time: [ST-PHARMACY@pa.gov](mailto:ST-PHARMACY@pa.gov)

Maintain a personal copy of this form and the email sent to the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy and provide a copy to your supervising pharmacist.

## Appendix E: Faculty Contact List for Questions

### For questions related to:

- **Experiential Learning Hours and Site Expectations:**
  - Dr. Skledar [sjs15@pitt.edu](mailto:sjs15@pitt.edu)
- **Immunization Training for Students:**
  - Dr. Hall [halldl@upmc.edu](mailto:halldl@upmc.edu) and Dr. Schonder [schonderks@upmc.edu](mailto:schonderks@upmc.edu)
- **Immunization Training for Pharmacists:** Dr. Berenbrok [berenbro@pitt.edu](mailto:berenbro@pitt.edu)
- **Pharmacy Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccinations:**
  - In community settings: Dr. Coley [coley@pitt.edu](mailto:coley@pitt.edu) and Dr. Carroll [joni.carroll@pitt.edu](mailto:joni.carroll@pitt.edu);
  - In health system settings: Dr. Hall [halldl@upmc.edu](mailto:halldl@upmc.edu) and Dr. Schonder [schonderks@upmc.edu](mailto:schonderks@upmc.edu)
- **State and Federal COVID-19 Emergency Waivers for Student Interns:**
  - Dr. McGivney [mmcgivney@pitt.edu](mailto:mmcgivney@pitt.edu)