



Pharmacists Administer Immunizations and Provide Patient Education

Each year, more than 50,000 adults and 300 children in the United States die from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications.¹

Meanwhile, immunizations, including those administered by pharmacists, help prevent 14 million cases of disease and 33,000 deaths every year.²

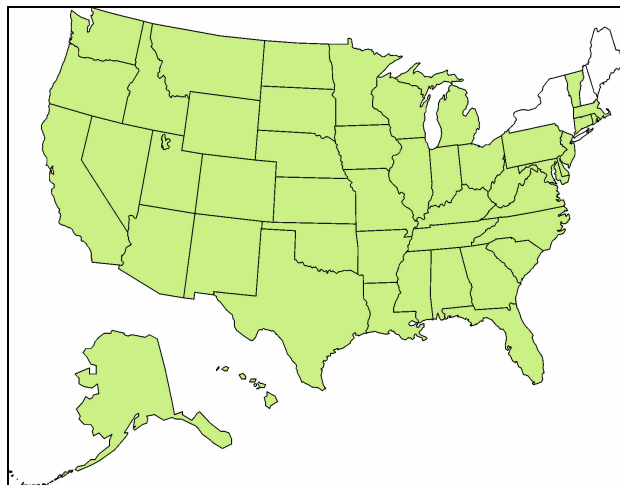
Each year, thousands of patients are hospitalized due to influenza or complications arising from influenza infection. States could save hundreds of thousands of dollars by increasing their influenza (flu) and pneumococcal immunization rates. Pharmacists can help.

Pharmacists serve communities through the provision of immunization education, facilitation of vaccine delivery by other healthcare providers, and/or administration of vaccines. During the 2005 influenza season, community immunization providers (including pharmacists) administered 10-15% of the influenza vaccine. (National Influenza Vaccine Summit, January 2006).

Forty-six states now allow pharmacists to administer immunizations. Pharmacies provide patients with convenient access to immunizations. In addition, pharmacists can easily identify patients who would most benefit from receiving specific vaccines and can immunize them onsite.

Pharmacists' involvement in improving public health and emergency preparedness, through the provision of immunization services and other patient care activities, is an excellent way for communities to prepare for public health crises and emergencies, such as influenza pandemics. Pharmacy practice locations provide access to knowledgeable healthcare professionals and an extension for public health service delivery in nearly every community.

STATES WHERE PHARMACISTS CAN IMMUNIZE (Shown in Green)



¹ Institute of Medicine Report. Shaping the Future For Health – Calling the Shots – Immunization Finance Policies and Practice. http://books.nap.edu/html/calling_the_shots/reportbrief.pdf

² Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Justification of Estimates for Appropriation Committees*. Available: http://www.317coalition.org/documents/cdc_fy2008budget_immunization.pdf.



The Alliance for Pharmaceutical Care is a consortium of nine national organizations working together to educate the public, policy makers and other key decision makers about the important role that pharmacists play in the ever-evolving healthcare system.

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