



**August 26, 2020**

On August 19, 2020 the Department of Health and Human Services announced an amendment to the declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act authorizing state-licensed pharmacists to order and administer vaccines to individuals ages three (3) through 18 years of age, subject to certain requirements:

- Vaccine must be FDA approved/licensed vaccine
- Administered according to CDC recommendations and the childhood immunization schedule
- Licensed pharmacists must complete practical training approved by ACPE (at least 20 hours)
- The licensed pharmacist must comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the jurisdiction in which he or she administers vaccines, including informing the patient's primary-care provider when available, submitting the required immunization information to the State or local immunization information system (IIS), complying with requirements with respect to reporting adverse events, and complying with requirements whereby the person administering a vaccine must review the IIS or other vaccination records prior to administering a vaccine.
- The licensed pharmacist must inform his or her childhood vaccination patients and the adult caregivers accompanying the children of the importance of a well-child visit with a pediatrician or other licensed primary care provider and refer patients as appropriate.
- The licensed pharmacists must complete basic life support training

This declaration supersedes the existing Maryland law, which allowed pharmacists to vaccinate children 9 yrs and older with influenza and 11-17 with any vaccine with a prescription. This declaration is in effect for the duration of the COVID emergency only.

As a result of the vaccine reporting requirement in Maryland law most, if not all, vaccinating pharmacists and the major chains currently report

vaccine administration data to ImmuNet, Maryland's IIS. Pharmacists will not be eligible to enroll in the Maryland VFC program until April 2021.

## **The ImmuNet Team**