



May 25, 2023

Dear Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, and Pharmacy Interns:

The federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, expired at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. This communication contains updated information resulting from U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra recently signing the [11th amendment](#) to the declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act for COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures. Please be aware of the following information:

Vaccines

- Because the PHE expired, the [Health Commissioner's standing order](#) for pharmacists to dispense and administer a COVID-19 vaccine, and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to administer the vaccine under the supervision of a pharmacist expired at the end of the day on May 11th.
 - **For persons ages three (3) and over:**
 - Per the [11th amendment](#) to the PREP Act, pharmacists may continue to order and administer, and pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians may continue to administer under the supervision of a pharmacist COVID-19 and influenza vaccines until 12/31/24. Refer to the [11th amendment](#) for required training and other requirements.
 - **For persons ages three (3) through eighteen (18):**
 - Per the [11th amendment](#) to the PREP Act, pharmacists may continue to order and administer, and pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians may continue to administer under the supervision of a pharmacist other vaccines on the CDC's Immunization Schedule until 12/31/24. Refer to the [11th amendment](#) for required training and other requirements.
 - **For persons ages eighteen (18) and older:**
 - Additionally, the [Board's statewide protocol](#) for a pharmacist to "initiate treatment with" (order and administer) a vaccine on the CDC's Immunization Schedule, or to direct a pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern to administer the vaccine under the supervision of the pharmacist remains in effect.
- The [Board's statewide protocol](#) for a pharmacist to "initiate treatment with" (order and administer) a vaccine on the CDC's Immunization Schedule, including COVID-19, or to direct a pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern to administer the vaccine under the supervision of the pharmacist to persons 3 years of age or older cannot become effective until the expiration of the provisions in the PREP Act, scheduled for 12/31/24.

COVID Tests

- Because the PHE expired, the [Health Commissioner's standing order](#) for pharmacists to order, dispense, and bill third-party insurance for FDA EUA-authorized at-home COVID-19 antigen and molecular test kits expired at the end of the day on May 11th.

- Per the [11th amendment](#) of the PREP Act, pharmacists may continue to order and administer, and pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians may continue to administer COVID-19 tests.
- Additionally, the Board’s statewide protocol for pharmacists to initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses to persons 18 years of age and older may be accessed [here](#).

Summary

Authorization for Administration per Population	COVID-19 Vaccine	Influenza Vaccine	Other Vaccines on CDC’s Immunization Schedule	COVID Tests
Ages 3–18	PREP Act	PREP Act	PREP Act	PREP Act
Ages 18+	PREP Act or VA BOP Vaccine Statewide Protocol	PREP Act or VA BOP Vaccine Statewide Protocol	PREP Act or VA BOP Vaccine Statewide Protocol	PREP Act or VA BOP Coronavirus Statewide Protocol

Board of Nursing-approved protocols authorizing pharmacists to administer vaccines to adults for immunization pursuant to § 54.1-3408 (I) and the authority for a prescriber to authorize a pharmacist to administer influenza vaccine to minors pursuant to § 54.1-3408 (W) are not impacted by the expiration of the federal PHE. Additional information on the federal PHE may be accessed [here](#).

Virginia Board of Pharmacy