



# OHIO STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

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Media Release

## **Pharmacists Can Now Administer the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine**

Effective June 9, 2014, a licensed pharmacist can now administer the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine to individuals 18 years and older according to an emergency rule filed by the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy.

Ohio is currently experiencing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. As of June 5, 2014, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has reported a mumps outbreak that has infected 411 individuals in the Central Ohio. Nationally, there were 438 known mumps cases in 39 states last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, a measles outbreak now has infected 239 people in six counties: Ashland, Coshocton, Holmes, Knox, Richland and Wayne. In response to these outbreaks, ODH and local health departments are encouraging residents to get vaccinated with the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

“The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy recognizes that pharmacists can play an important role in responding to these outbreaks by advocating and administering vaccines”, said Ohio State Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Kyle Parker. “Pharmacies serve as convenient and accessible locations for individuals to obtain the MMR vaccine in order to prevent the further spread of the measles and mumps.”

Pharmacists are currently authorized under section 4729.41 of the Ohio Revised Code to provide the following immunizations to individuals 18 years and older pursuant to a protocol established by a physician and approved by the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy: Pneumonia, Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Meningitis, Diphtheria, Influenza and Pertussis.

For more information on this new rule please visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov).