



Board Issues Updated Guidance Due to the End of the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023 (effectively May 12, 2023).

The Board updated its COVID-19 guidance to reflect the waivers that will expire because of the expiration of the PHE. That document can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID.

Changes to the Federal PREP Act

With the end of the Federal PHE, here is a summary of the changes under the [PREP Act](#) that will impact pharmacists, interns, and technicians in Ohio effective May 12, 2023:

- **Extending coverage for COVID-19 vaccines, seasonal influenza vaccines, and COVID-19 tests.** PREP Act immunity from liability will be extended through December 2024 to pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccines (to those individuals three and over, consistent with other requirements), and COVID-19 tests, regardless of any USG agreement or emergency declaration.
- **Ending of coverage for routine childhood vaccinations.** Once there is no emergency in effect, PREP Act coverage will no longer extend to all routine childhood vaccinations by pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians.

To reflect these changes, the Board issued the following updated guidance documents:

- [Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (Pharmacists and Interns)
- [Pharmacy Technician Administration of Vaccines during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (Registered/Certified Technicians)

The Board also removed guidance from its website related to the administration of childhood vaccines by pharmacists and pharmacy interns under the PREP Act. Pharmacists and pharmacy interns may still administer childhood vaccines under the applicable provisions of Ohio law: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/vaccine.

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