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## COVID-19 Response Efforts - March 20, 2020

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The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Ohioans during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Board posted a document on its website that provides COVID-19 guidance and response efforts, including the issuance of waivers to assist licensees in addressing operational needs. This document will be updated regularly and can be accessed by visiting: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID). **Please be advised that new and updated waivers were issued today (see below).**

For more information on the state's efforts to address coronavirus, visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

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### New and Updated COVID-19 Waivers Issued

- Authorized the temporary expansion of the maximum days' supply permitted under rule 4729-9-23 of the Administrative Code from 31 days to 60 days. This guidance can be accessed [here](#). (**NOTE:** Originally issued on 3/18/2020)
  - Authorized licensees to perform sterile compounding for another licensee, referred to as central compounding. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).
  - Authorized registered pharmacy technicians to stock automated drug storage systems and send and receive copies of non-controlled prescriptions, under certain conditions. Additionally, provides clarification on the positive identification requirements for technicians transferring prescriptions. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).
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### Practicing Pharmacy in a Safe and Effective Manner - Mandatory Requirements **UPDATED 3/19/2020!**

On March 18, 2020, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy issued **mandatory requirements** for pharmacies to implement safeguards to ensure pharmacy professionals practice in a safe and effective manner.

On March 19, 2020, the Board issued an update to these requirements clarifying provisions on immunization administration as follows:

- Pharmacists and pharmacy interns shall no longer be permitted to administer immunizations or other injections without standard protective measures, which includes gloves and proper hand hygiene (i.e. routinely washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds). Standard protective measures **do not** include the use of masks or gowns.
- Pharmacists and pharmacy interns shall not administer any immunizations or other injections to patients displaying or reporting symptoms of respiratory illness, including any of the following:
  - Fever (**NOTE:** This does not require mandatory temperature checks);
  - Cough; or
  - Shortness of breath.

These updated requirements can be accessed by visiting: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDsafe](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDsafe).

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### State Medical Board of Ohio COVID-19 Resources

The State Medical Board issued new guidance on using telemedicine in place of in-person visits. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).

The Medical Board also launched a webpage to provide prescriber resources during the COVID-19 outbreak. The site can be accessed by visiting: <https://med.ohio.gov/COVID-19>.

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## **Important COVID-19 Reminders**

The Board has issued additional guidance based upon questions received from licensees. This additional guidance is listed under the *Important COVID-19 Reminders* section of the Board's [response efforts document](#).

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