



2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Vaccine Recommendations Frequently Asked Questions

October 6, 2025

Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) about recent changes federal vaccine policies, as they related to pharmacies and pharmacists. The Oregon Medical Board (OMB) provides these FAQ to help providers understand the vaccine landscape and any changes to requirements or allowances.

These FAQ may be updated intermittently.

The OMB has developed these FAQ in coordination with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). For updated information about federal vaccine policy and Oregon's response, including Oregon's participation in the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA), visit OHA's [Monitoring Federal Changes and any Impacts on Oregon](#) website.

For general information about vaccines in Oregon, visit OHA's [Vaccines and Immunization](#) website.

What is the West Coast Health Alliance?

The Governors of Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Washington have formed the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) as a unified regional response to concerns regarding the CDC's credibility and scientific integrity under its current leadership. The WCHA is committed to safeguarding scientific expertise and vaccine access, and leading with clarity, evidence and care so that individuals and families know their options and can access the protection they deserve.

The WCHA has developed Consensus [WCHA 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations](#).

What are the West Coast Health Alliance's COVID-19, influenza and RSV vaccine recommendations?

Visit [OHA's website](#) for the most up-to-date recommendations.

If I administer or prescribe vaccines that are not yet ACIP-approved, will the OMB discipline my license?

The OMB fully supports physicians and PAs in their professional medical decision-making regarding vaccinations. Physicians and PAs should review the [WCHA Recommendations](#), screen patients for contraindications and precautions, and proceed with vaccination based on the provider's clinical expertise and professional judgment of each patient's unique healthcare circumstances and risk factors. Any patient who wants a vaccine should receive a vaccine so long as it's not contraindicated.

The Board will not take disciplinary action against licensees who make appropriate, evidence-based clinical decisions when administering or prescribing vaccines within their scope of practice and in the best interest of patient care, and not otherwise inconsistent with the Oregon Medical Practice Act.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How can I administer vaccines in my clinic?

Physicians and PAs are encouraged to establish standing protocols in accordance with the [WCHA Recommendations](#) within their clinics and institutions for the administration of vaccines.

Can all patients receive a vaccine at the pharmacy?

With the exception of the influenza vaccine, children under age 7 will not be able to receive a vaccine at a pharmacy. Therefore, family medicine and pediatrics offices are advised to stock respiratory vaccines and make them available to pediatric patients. Subject to supply, all individuals age 7 and over should be able to receive a vaccine at a pharmacy. Please note children ages six months and up can receive the influenza vaccine at a pharmacy.

If a pharmacist requests a prescription in order to administer a vaccine for my patient, what should I do?

If writing a prescription for a vaccine, physicians and PAs must include the phrase "to administer at pharmacy" or a similar, equivalent phrase. If the patient is under 65 years old, including "medically necessary" or specifying the patient's underlying condition on the prescription may preempt further questions by the pharmacist.

Can my medical staff administer vaccines under delegated authority?

Yes. Nurses and Medical Assistants may administer vaccines if there is a valid prescription, an order, or an approved standing protocol in place.

How can I help my patients find information on accessing respiratory vaccines?

The Oregon Health Authority [provides statewide, general information](#) for patients on vaccine access and insurance coverage. Physician and PA practices should also maintain updated information on clinic websites regarding vaccine availability/stock and appointment scheduling or upcoming vaccine clinics.

How can I stay updated on vaccine access, insurance coverage, and the WCHA?

This FAQ and the OMB [website](#) will be updated as more information becomes available from the West Coast Health Alliance, the Oregon Board of Pharmacy, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The WCHA will continue to evaluate new evidence and recommendations as they become available and is committed to sharing any updated assessments with our communities.
