

# Children Can Get Childhood Vaccines at Pharmacies in All 50 States

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has amended the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act), and now children can receive their childhood vaccines at pharmacies in all 50 states. This action is a direct response to the drop in vaccination rates due to COVID-19. A Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report from May of 2020 found that less than half of children aged 5-16 months were up to date on their vaccinations. The HHS plans to increase those rates by making vaccines more readily accessible, especially for those who are unable to go to the doctor's office.

*Today's action means easier access to lifesaving vaccines for our children, as we seek to ensure immunization rates remain high during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Trump Administration has worked to allow pharmacists—alongside all of America's heroic healthcare workers—to practice at the top of their license, empowering the public with more options to protect their health and well-being.”*

*Alex Azar, HHS secretary*

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Any FDA approved vaccines will be available at pharmacies, where they will be administered to children aged 3-18 by a licensed pharmacist or a supervised, licensed pharmacy intern. Prior to this amendment, pharmacists were able to administer vaccines in 28 different states. Another factor in lower vaccination rates is the lack of access to health care for many individuals who have lost their jobs. Perhaps a

government showing concern about the potential for a public health crisis due to low vaccination rates should also be concerned about giving the public free access to the services it deems necessary.

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