



Public Health Authority Legislative Update

July 2023

Expanded Scope of Practice for Vaccine Administration

Laws expanding vaccination access were an important public health authority state legislative trend in 2022, and the trend continues.

Despite intensified anti-vaccine rhetoric during the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 70% of the U.S population is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (over 80% has received at least one dose). That translates to the prevention of 3.2 million additional deaths, 18.5 million additional hospitalizations, and almost 120 million more infections as well as over \$1 trillion in medical costs saved.

While these benefits have not been across the board – with differences by race/ethnicity, community type, education, and political affiliation – laws that expand access to vaccines by increasing the vaccination workforce (also known as expanded scope of practice laws) are an opportunity to advance health and health equity.

Between January 1 and May 22, 2023, 66 bills expanding vaccination access have been introduced in 28 states. This includes at least 8 enacted laws in 6 states (GA, KS, MD, MT, NC, and WV).

New York introduced a bill that permits dentists to administer vaccines for COVID-19 and the flu and vaccines related to a declared public health emergency (S 7356).

Montana enacted a law to allow pharmacists to delegate the administration of authorized immunizations to a licensed intern or to a pharmacy technician under the supervision of the pharmacist (HB 710).

New Hampshire introduced a bill to expand the practice of optometry to include administering influenza, COVID-19, and shingles vaccines that have been approved by the FDA to adults (SB 200).

Visit LawAtlas for more information on laws addressing public health authority to respond to emergencies.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

Trends in Vaccination Law and Judicial Challenges

July 26 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. ET



REGISTER

New Report: Innovative Laws for a Post-Pandemic Public Health System



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REPORT

Further reading

Popovian, R., [Pharmacists are the solution for the lagging vaccinate rates of seniors in the U.S](#) (June 2023).

Stoecker, C., [Shooting from the 'Scrip: Scope of Practice Laws and Access to Immunizations in the Pharmacy Setting](#) (May 2021).

National Governors Association, [State Strategies to Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Rural Communities](#) (August 2021).

Barraza, L., Schmit, C., Hoss, A., [The Latest in Vaccine Policies: Selected Issues in School Vaccinations, Healthcare Worker Vaccinations, and Pharmacist Vaccination Authority Laws](#) (March 2017).



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Connect with law and policy colleagues and find additional resources to navigate the legal changes that threaten or advance healthier communities for all.

Act for Public Health is a working group of the Public Health Law Partnership. Visit the [Act for Public Health](#) website for additional resources and information on public health authority.

The Public Health Law Partnership



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