

PA Bill to Expand Access to Vaccines in Pharmacies in 200 Words

[Population Health Sciences](#)

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This month, Pennsylvania state lawmakers introduced [legislation](#) to improve access to vaccination in pharmacies. Currently, pharmacies in PA are only allowed to administer vaccines to adults ages 18 and older, except for the flu vaccine which can be given to children as young as age 9. The proposed legislation would allow pharmacists to administer **any** vaccine to children ages nine and older.

[Recent outbreaks](#) of [preventable diseases](#) demonstrate the pressing need to improve vaccination rates. Heightened levels of [vaccine hesitancy](#) have contributed to undervaccination in many communities, and some families simply do not prioritize immunization over the many other competing demands on their time and resources. However, we do know that families often interact with pharmacists more regularly than with primary care providers, and the convenience added by [allowing pharmacists](#) to administer vaccines has led to increased immunization rates among adults.

This new bill is in line with our [many recommendations](#) for protecting the health and safety of children, families and communities from preventable disease by making vaccines more accessible to Pennsylvania families. For PolicyLab's strategies to address vaccine hesitancy, optimize access and increase vaccination rates, see our recent [Evidence to Action brief](#), [blog post](#) and [webinar](#).

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