

July 29, 2025

Susan Monarez, PhD  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Department of Health and Human Services  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333

RE: CDC Director Congratulations, Meeting Request, and Future Collaboration with America's Pharmacists

Dear Director Monarez,

America's more than 800,000 pharmacists, pharmacy faculty, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians extend congratulations to you on your confirmation as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The pharmacy profession requests a meeting with you and your CDC team to discuss ways we can collaborate on protecting and improving our nation's public health utilizing available evidence-based science and expertise of our constituents.

Pharmacists engage in multiple ways to improve the public health of the communities they serve. Immunizations are one important example of that impact. Pharmacists and those under pharmacists' supervision administer the majority of influenza and other recommended vaccines to adult patients in our nation. According to available 2024–2025 influenza season data, over 60% of adult influenza vaccinations were administered in pharmacies.<sup>1</sup> During the 2023–2024 respiratory infection season, 96% of RSV vaccinations were administered in pharmacies.<sup>2</sup> As of April 12, 2025, nearly 90% of COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered in pharmacies.<sup>3</sup> As one of the most accessible immunizing professionals, with nearly 90% of Americans living within five miles of a pharmacy, pharmacists' authority to vaccinate is crucial as part of the overall health care system, providing the scientifically proven best defense possible against vaccine-preventable diseases.<sup>4</sup> With pharmacists playing this pivotal and trusted role in recommending and administering vaccines to the American public, their vaccine authority and public access, which is tied to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and CDC guidance in many states, must be protected.<sup>5</sup> We encourage you and your staff to ensure that pharmacists in states where vaccine administration authority is tied to ACIP and CDC guidance can continue

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<sup>1</sup> *Influenza Vaccinations Administered in Pharmacies and Physician Medical Offices\*, Adults, United States*, FluVaxView (Apr. 9, 2025). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluvoxview/dashboard/adult-vaccinations-administered.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *2023-24 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccinations Administered in Pharmacies and Physician Medical Offices (IQVIA), Adults 60 Years and Older*, RSVVaxView (Sept. 25, 2024). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsvvoxview/dashboard/2023-24-adult-vaccinations-administered.html>.

<sup>3</sup> *COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered in Pharmacies and Medical Offices\*, Adults 18 Years and Older, United States*, COVIDVaxView (May 7, 2025). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/covidvoxview/weekly-dashboard/vaccinations-administered-pharmacies-medical.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Lucas A. Berenbrok, et al., *Access to Community Pharmacies: A Nationwide Geographic Information Systems Cross-Sectional Analysis*, 62 *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association* 1816, 1816 (2022). Available at: <https://www.japha.org/action/showPdf?pii=S1544-3191%2822%2900233-3>.

<sup>5</sup> AL, AZ, CA, GA, HI, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MI, MN, MT, NH, NM, NY, NC, ND, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, UT, VT, WI, WY (noting that the vaccine authority of AK, CO, CT, DC, FL, IL, MD, MO, NJ, NV, OH, TN, TX, VA, WV are also linked to ACIP, CDC, FDA, and other federal agencies in state statutes and regulations).

recommending and administering vaccines approved and recommended through established evidence-based scientific review processes.

As you know, for more than 25 years, a pharmacist has been a non-voting liaison representative to ACIP. Additionally, pharmacists are serving various ACIP work groups. The pharmacy profession has proudly brought its knowledge and experience from across the country to the table and ensured that the voice and expertise of the nation's trusted provider of vaccines is heard during these conversations. Currently, no pharmacists are serving as voting members of ACIP, despite being the largest adult vaccine providers. We have continually supported applications of qualified pharmacists for such appointments, but none of our candidates have ever been selected by the CDC Director and/or HHS Secretary. We encourage you to concur with the HHS Secretary to select a pharmacist as an ACIP voting member based on practical vaccination experience, vaccine science knowledge, and medication expertise. We are willing and able to work with you to identify a well-qualified pharmacist to serve in this capacity and have already submitted well-qualified pharmacist candidates to the HHS Secretary.

We, the undersigned, again, want to congratulate you on your appointment as CDC Director. We are aligned with your statement that CDC should "use science and evidence to drive that decision-making." As integral and accessible members of every health care team, community, and public health efforts, pharmacists, pharmacy faculty, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians nationwide stand ready and able to work with CDC to protect Americans from preventable disease and emerging health threats. We look forward to continued collaboration. Please contact Brigid Groves, PharmD, MS, Vice President, Professional Affairs at [bgroves@aphanet.org](mailto:bgroves@aphanet.org) to discuss the availability of you and your team to arrange a virtual meeting with us on these important public health topics.

Sincerely,

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)  
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)  
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)  
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)  
National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA)  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)