COVID-19 Vaccination

Key Messages and Frequently Asked Questions
for Pharmacists and External Partners

Updated: Feb. 8, 2021

Is the College of Pharmacy providing assistance to counties, pharmacies, healthcare organizations regarding COVID-19 vaccinations?

The College of Pharmacy is supporting a number of efforts related to COVID-19 vaccinations, including:

- encouraging faculty, staff and students to volunteer to be part of the University’s Medical Reserve Corps to further support vaccination efforts
- offering a self-paced ACPE-accredited continuing education (CE) program for pharmacists, training them to provide vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccinations
- offering a self-paced ACPE-accredited continuing education (CE) program for pharmacy technicians, training technicians to administer COVID-19 vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist
- having clinical faculty and residents administer vaccinations in their clinical setting and/or partnering with external organizations to further support vaccination efforts
- having students support vaccination efforts with our partners via educational programs, service contracts and co-curricular volunteer opportunities
- partnering with others in the University to develop materials to provide education to communities about the COVID-19 vaccinations
- collaborating with other health science schools to support mobile health clinics aimed at supporting communities by providing COVID-19 education and offering vaccination programs

If I would like to partner with the College of Pharmacy on COVID-19 vaccination planning who should I contact?

- When seeking information about how to best partner with the College of Pharmacy,
please consider your needs as an organization.

- **Interested in asking students to assist with vaccination efforts:**
  
  Note all PharmD students must be supervised by a pharmacy preceptor per Minnesota Board of Pharmacy regulations in a ratio equal to or less than two pharmacy interns to one preceptor. We will work to seek students to fulfill the needs of your organization. However, please remember that all students are enrolled in course work this semester which may limit their availability at some times. Also note, we are supporting initiatives that are educational in nature.

  - **Hiring Interns:** If you are interested in hiring PharmD students as interns please feel free to send the job announcement to Becky Borg at becky@umn.edu and she will distribute the information to students.

  - **Students Vaccinating and Receiving Course Credit:** If you are interested having students participate in vaccination efforts you may want to consider embedding it in their existing experiential rotation (see below), offering a new 40 hour Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) focused on administering vaccinations, and/or working with the college to offer an elective clinical experiences or directed study electives. Note, the college will help to support the educational aspects of the activities. For more information please contact: Dr. Andy Traynor, assistant dean for experiential education at tray0015@umn.edu.

  - **Students Co-curricular Student Outreach to Help with Vaccination Efforts:** Student volunteer community outreach including COVID-19 vaccination activities are coordinated through our Campus Life Program. Volunteer activities are typically held at specific dates and times to allow for volunteer sign-up; they may be longitudinal for a few weeks (such as every Saturday for 8 weeks), but are typically not long term. For more information about this program and how to request volunteers please contact Dr. Sarah Westberg, associate dean for clinical affairs at...
Interested in Training Opportunities

If you are interested in learning more about the pharmacist or technician ACPE-accredited continuing education programs aimed at preparing pharmacists and technicians to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, please see: Immunization Delivery for Pharmacists course information and Immunization Delivery for Pharmacy Technicians for more details.

Interested in Contracting with the College of Pharmacy to Provide Services

If you are interested in developing a service contract in which faculty, staff or students would partner with your organization in vaccination efforts please contact Dr. Tim Stratton, senior associate dean at tstratto@d.umn.edu or (218) 340-7419.

Interested in College of Pharmacy Faculty or Staff Assisting in Vaccination Efforts

If you are interested in asking College of Pharmacy faculty or staff to help in your vaccination efforts please contact Dr. Tim Stratton, senior associate dean at tstratto@d.umn.edu or (218) 340-7419 or Dr. Lynda Welage, dean, at lwelage@umn.edu.

Interested in Mobile Health and/or Interprofessional Initiatives:

If you are interested in learning more about our mobile health initiatives or in partnering with the College of Pharmacy and other health science schools at the University please contact Sarah Westberg, associate dean for clinical affairs at swestber@umn.edu.

For more information regarding more details regarding the options to involve Doctor of Pharmacy students in COVID-19 vaccination clinics please click here.

Are all College of Pharmacy PharmD students trained to give vaccinations?

After completing their P1 year of the Doctor of Pharmacy program, all PharmD students have received immunization training that is similar to ACPE-approved vaccination training programs.
This training includes course work and practice giving simulated and actual vaccinations. Each student receives a letter indicating they have completed the necessary immunization training permitting them to administer vaccinations. Students can request another copy of this letter, if needed, as evidence for your organization. The MN Board of Pharmacy recognizes that pharmacy interns are trained to administer vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccinations under the supervision of a registered pharmacy preceptor. While this is supported by regulations, the executive director of the Board of Pharmacy will post information on this in the Board of Pharmacy COVID FAQ. In summary, P2, P3 and P4 students have received immunization training. All students participating in COVID-19 vaccination efforts should also complete the four MDH COVID training modules.

Our P1 class will be taking this immunization coursework this spring and at this time are not able to administer vaccinations, unless they are a pharmacy technician and have taken a ACPE-accredited CE training program for technicians regarding vaccinations. P1 students can assist with non-intern and/or non-technician activities.

Have the students had 20 hours of ACPE-accredited training to prepare them to administer COVID-19 vaccinations?

The College of Pharmacy professional program is accredited by ACPE. ACPE standards require that all colleges/schools of pharmacy prepare PharmD students to administer vaccinations. Our program meets these requirements and this has been confirmed by the Board of Pharmacy. Specifically, after completing the first year of the PharmD program, students will have completed: 10 hours of lectures, discussions, laboratory experiences and exams. In order to successfully complete these required activities we expect all students will have needed to devote at least 10 hours to studying the material (often 20 hours of studying). In addition to these initial requirements, P3 students complete refresher activities, and many P2 and P3 students take immunization electives in which they administer vaccines. Many introductory or advanced pharmacy practice experiences (IPPE/APPEs) also have students participate in vaccination efforts.
Have graduates of the College of Pharmacy prepared to administer vaccinations?

Since 2001, the College of Pharmacy has offered vaccination training to all students prior to completion of the program similar to that described above. Graduates are responsible for determining if they meet the individual State Board of Pharmacy to administer vaccinations.

If I have APPE students on rotation, can I ask them to participate in administering vaccinations?

Yes, APPE students may participate in various aspects of administering vaccinations. The amount of effort students should spend in vaccination efforts depends on a combination of factors. These include what APPE rotation they are assigned to; the ability of entrustable professional activities (EPAs) on the rotation to still be evaluated at rotation’s end; ability for the administration to still be precepted by a pharmacist; and student and preceptor comfort with participation as a part of APPEs. If there are concerns or questions, please contact Dr. Andy Traynor at tray0015@umn.edu.

If I have IPPE students on rotation, can I ask them to participate in administering vaccinations?

Yes, P2 and P3 IPPE students may participate in various aspects of administering vaccinations. The amount of effort students should spend in vaccination efforts depends on a combination of factors. These include the ability of EPAs on the rotation to still be evaluated at rotation’s end; ability for the administration to still be precepted by a pharmacist; and student and preceptor comfort with participation as a part of IPPEs. If there are concerns or questions, please contact Dr. Andy Traynor at tray0015@umn.edu.

Can I have my residents participating in vaccine administration?

Yes, pharmacy residents may participate in various aspects of administering vaccinations as long as they meet the MN Board of Pharmacy requirements. Licensed residents are able to follow the same regulations as outlined for pharmacists by the Board of Pharmacy. Unlicensed
residents would similarly follow the guidance outlined for APPE students. As a healthcare professional and learner, the amount of effort residents spend in vaccination efforts should consider the resident’s ability to meet the ASHP residency accreditation standards. If there are concerns or questions, please contact Dr. Jean Moon at jmoon@umn.edu.

If I have students, residents, faculty or staff assisting with vaccinations, who provides the PPE? The College of Pharmacy requests that the organization coordinating and/or offering the vaccinations provide PPE to all individuals from the College of Pharmacy who are participating in these activities at the given organization.

Have the PharmD students received a COVID-19 vaccination?
While some students have received COVID-19 vaccinations from their employers or from their practice site, not all students have been vaccinated. The College of Pharmacy is working with healthcare partners as well as the University to provide vaccinations to students as soon as possible. Sites asking to work with students, faculty, residents or staff who have not been vaccinated are encouraged to offer to vaccinate these individuals before having them participate in vaccination efforts at your site/organization.

Is the College of Pharmacy providing ACPE accredited vaccination training for pharmacists? Yes, the College of Pharmacy, in partnership with MPhA, will offer an updated ACPE Continuing Education (CE) self-paced immunization training program which will include 20 hrs of CE training at a cost of $300 - $350 per pharmacist. Of note, an additional one hour of CE will be provided to individuals who complete the four required MDH COVID-19 training modules. The asynchronous, self-paced nature of this training program allows pharmacists to register and participate in the program at any time. This course is organized into four modules. Each module contains a variety of instructional materials: readings, presentations, resources, and self-evaluation questions, culminating in two online quizzes. In order to adjust for COVID-19 precautions, the “live session” has been adjusted to allow for injection technique can be demonstrated in person at the College of Pharmacy or with a community immunizing
Is the College of Pharmacy providing ACPE-accredited vaccination training for pharmacy technicians?

Yes, the College of Pharmacy in partnership with MPhA will offer an ACPE Continuing Education (CE) self-paced immunization training program for Pharmacy Technicians. This program will include 5hrs of CE training at a cost of $50-$60 per pharmacy technician. One additional hour of CE will be provided to individuals who complete the four required MDH COVID-19 training modules. The asynchronous, self-paced nature of this training program allows pharmacy technicians to register and participate in the program at any time. This course is self-directed to provide background knowledge and hands-on training in the administration of immunizations for pharmacy technicians. It consists mainly of audio-linked presentations and culminates in a final exam. In order to adjust for COVID-19 precautions, the “live session” has been adjusted to allow for injection technique can be demonstrated in person at the College of Pharmacy or with a community immunizing pharmacist.

Please see: Immunization Delivery for Pharmacy Technicians course information for more details.