ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
in coordination with the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy

TO: All Licensed Pharmacists and Pharmacies in the State of Arizona

FROM: Nicole Witt, Interim Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Health Services
Kam Gandhi, Director, Arizona Board of Pharmacy

DATE: October 26, 2026

RE: *UPDATED* Standing Order for the 2026-2027 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine and *CLARIFICATION* of patient eligibility for ADHS Seasonal Vaccine Standing Orders

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The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), in coordination with the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy, has issued an updated statewide standing order for the 2026–2027 seasonal influenza vaccine. The only change to this standing order is the addition of the non-egg-based Influenza Vaccine (mRNA). A copy of the full Standing Order is available on the ADHS website. The order allows qualified pharmacists and other authorized health care professionals to administer an age-appropriate influenza vaccine to people who meet the order's criteria without requiring an individual prescription.

The memo also highlights patient eligibility for the 2026-2027 Influenza Vaccine and the 2026-2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders. Seasonal vaccine standing orders from ADHS utilize the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the Infectious Diseases Society of America to determine patient eligibility. Pharmacists are encouraged to review these recommendations, particularly for children (see "Clarification" below).

Background

In Arizona, qualified pharmacists can administer vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for international travel, or vaccines authorized through a physician-issued public health standing order.

With uncertainty surrounding the schedule and timing of the next ACIP meeting, ADHS has developed (and now updated) a statewide standing order for the 2026-2027 Influenza vaccine and the 2026-2027 COVID-19 Vaccine to help ensure all Arizonans have timely access through the appropriate pharmacy or health care setting in preparation for the 2026–2027 respiratory illness season.

Purpose

This Standing Order authorizes eligible, certified pharmacists to order and administer the 2026-2027 formulation of the seasonal influenza vaccine to patients without a patient-specific prescription, consistent with Arizona law.

Clarification on Eligibility

The ADHS seasonal vaccine standing orders utilize the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the Infectious Diseases Society of America to determine patient eligibility. Pharmacists are encouraged to review these recommendations, particularly when individuals are seeking out vaccination for themselves or their children.

For example: please note the AAFP 2026 recommendations, which serve as the eligibility criteria for the standing orders, along with age-appropriateness and vaccine contraindications. **(AAFP, 2026)**

Influenza vaccine:

- Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone **aged 6 months and older without medical contraindications.** All recipients should be given a vaccine approved for their age group.
- Adults 65 years and older should preferentially receive an enhanced influenza vaccine (high dose, adjuvanted or recombinant or mRNA) when available but should not delay vaccination to obtain one.

COVID-19 vaccine:

- The AAFP recommends **all adults 19 years and older should receive a COVID-19 vaccine.**
- Adults 65 years and older should receive a second dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine 6 months after the initial dose to help maintain protection as immunity wanes over time.
- **The AAFP recommends all children ages 6-23 months be vaccinated against COVID-19 and using a risk-based single dose approach for children and teens 2-18 years. [AAFP] support[s] ongoing immunization access for any family wanting to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This recommendation is aligned with the AAP (2026).**
- **The AAFP recommends COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy during any trimester and including during lactation.** This is consistent with [AAFP's] 2025 recommendation and aligned with ACOG (2026).

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

This Standing Order is issued pursuant to, and pharmacists administering under it must continue to comply with, the following Arizona authorities:

- A.R.S. § 32-1974 - Authorizes a licensed pharmacist (or a supervised pharmacy intern) to order and administer influenza immunizations without a patient-specific prescription to individuals age three (3) years and older, and establishes related certification, patient screening, reporting, and record-keeping requirements.
- A.A.C. R4-23-411 - Arizona State Board of Pharmacy rule governing pharmacist certification to administer immunizations, including training, continuing education, and active-immunizer registration requirements.

- A.R.S. § 32-1904 - General authority of the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy to regulate the practice of pharmacy in this state.
- A.A.C. R9-6-1301 (Arizona Administrative Code, Title 9, Department of Health Services) - Sets forth age- and vaccine-specific parameters for immunizations administered by pharmacists to minors.

Nothing in this Standing Order expands a pharmacist's authority beyond what is permitted under A.R.S. § 32-1974 and Board of Pharmacy rule. Pharmacists should consult legal counsel or the Board of Pharmacy with questions regarding scope of practice.

Pharmacist Resources

- Questions regarding this Standing Order may be directed to immunizations@azdhs.gov or to the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy via the contact form.

Effective Period

This standing order will be reviewed and may be updated if there is relevant new evidence, data, reporting requirements or legal language that would impact the process or utilization. It may be revised or withdrawn at any time by the signee or a higher-ranking physician at the Department with prescribing ability.

Sincerely,

Nicole Witt, Interim Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Health Services
Kam Gandhi, Director, Arizona Board of Pharmacy