

2023 NCSL State Public Health Symposium
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Anne Edwards, MD, FAAP
Chief Medical Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Childhood Immunizations In the United States: A Sound Public Investment

- Since the implementation of the VFC program in 1994, routine childhood immunizations have:
 - Prevented 472 million illnesses;
 - Helped avoid over a million deaths, and;
 - Saved nearly \$2.2 trillion in total societal costs, including \$479 billion in direct costs

Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program

- Federally-funded program that provides Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)-recommended vaccines at no cost for children who might not otherwise be vaccinated due to inability to pay
- VFC Eligibility:
 - Medicaid-eligible
 - Uninsured
 - Underinsured
 - American Indian or Alaska Native
- State grantees (immunization programs) distribute VFC vaccine free of charge to practices
- Administration fee paid by Medicaid or family



Vaccines For Children (VFC) / Medicaid Intersection

- Practices rely on state immunization programs for distribution
- CDC establishes storage and handling rules
- Most VFC-eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid, which sets payment level for vaccine administration
 - Increasing role of physicians to counsel patients led to establishment of “stand-alone” vaccine counseling



Medicaid Unwinding

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act ensured all Medicaid enrollees retained coverage
- 2022 omnibus package delinked continuous coverage requirement from PHE
- States could begin disenrollments as early as April 1
- Several states have begun; early data show high rates of procedural disenrollments in many states
- Uninsured enrollees will remain eligible for VFC, however administration fee would not be paid by Medicaid
- AAP has many resources to spread word about the Unwinding: www.aap.org/MedicaidUnwinding

**Have Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid)?
Take 3 Steps to Keep Your Coverage.**

1 UPDATE YOUR INFO
Make sure Oregon Health Plan has your current contact information: visit <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PHE/pages/phe-renew-your-coverage.aspx> or call (800) 699-9075.

2 LOOK OUT
Check for official information (mail, email, and texts) with instructions on when and how to renew coverage.

3 REPLY ASAP
Respond right away with updated info to ensure you and your family are still eligible.

NO LONGER QUALIFY FOR OREGON HEALTH PLAN?

Children:
Most kids can still be covered through the Children's Health Insurance Program / **Oregon Health Plan**. For details, check your Medicaid notice or call **800-699-9075** for more information.

Adults:
Adults may be able to get financial assistance to pay for a health insurance plan through the health insurance **Marketplace**. Visit www.healthcare.gov or call **800-318-2596** to apply.

Questions? Call (800) 699-9075

Georgetown University Health Policy Institute CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

American Academy of Pediatrics DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

State-Level Data From AAP: Child Vaccination Across America



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of Pediatrics



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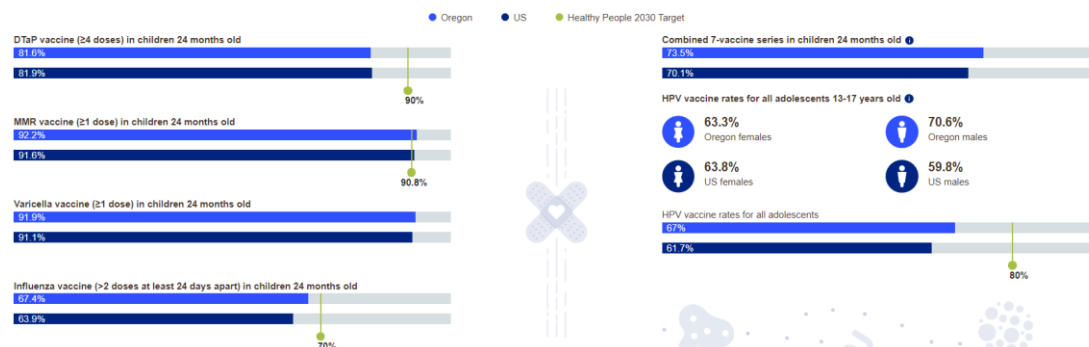
Child Vaccination Across America

Vaccines are important for the health of individual children and teens as well as entire communities. Some communities in the United States have experienced disease outbreaks because of lower immunization rates in their area. Higher immunization rates protect vulnerable children who are too young to be vaccinated or who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, making immunizations an essential response to COVID-19 and other diseases.

You can use this interactive map to explore your state's immunization rates and compare them with national rates. These data come from the CDC National Immunization Survey and are updated annually.

The State of Oregon's Child Vaccination Rates

How Oregon Compares with National Rates



- How to explore the interactive map [Watch Video](#)
- Track recent disease outbreaks and learn about immunity [Learn More](#)
- Learn about vaccination gaps related to insurance, race and ethnicity, poverty, and geographic area [Explore Data](#)
- Track COVID-19 vaccination rates [See Report](#)

50-state data available at:
<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/Vaccine/index.html>

<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immunizations>



Vaccine Access Barriers

Brent Ewig, MHS

Chief Policy & Government Relations

Association of Immunization Managers

Vaccine Access Barriers

- **Lack of Health Insurance**

The percent of uninsured children not vaccinated by their 2nd birthday was 8 times that of privately insured children born during 2018-2019 (CDC).

- **Low-income Hurdles**

Low-income parents report more concerns about access to vaccines, including taking time off work, lack of information about vaccine availability and transportation issues (Kaiser Family Foundation polling).

- **Race/Ethnicity Disparities**

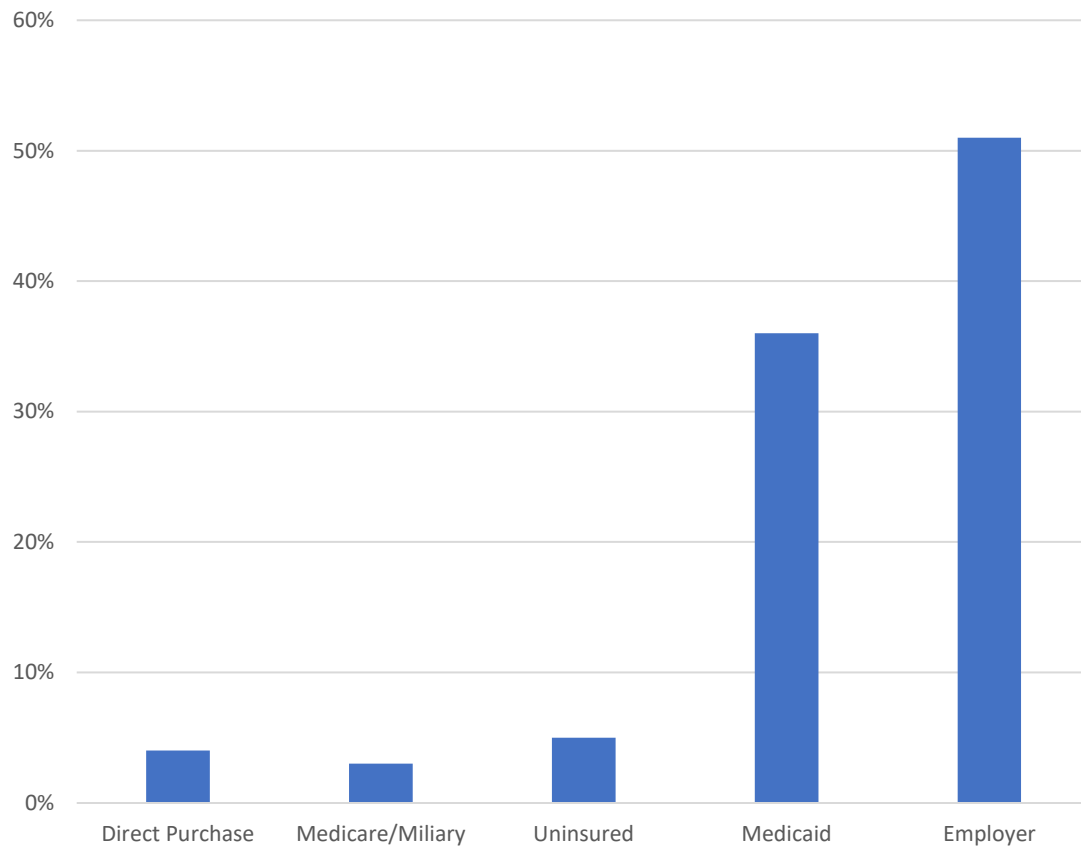
Vaccination was lower among Black or African American children and Hispanic or Latino children than white non-Hispanic children (CDC).

- **Disparities Among Medicaid Recipients**

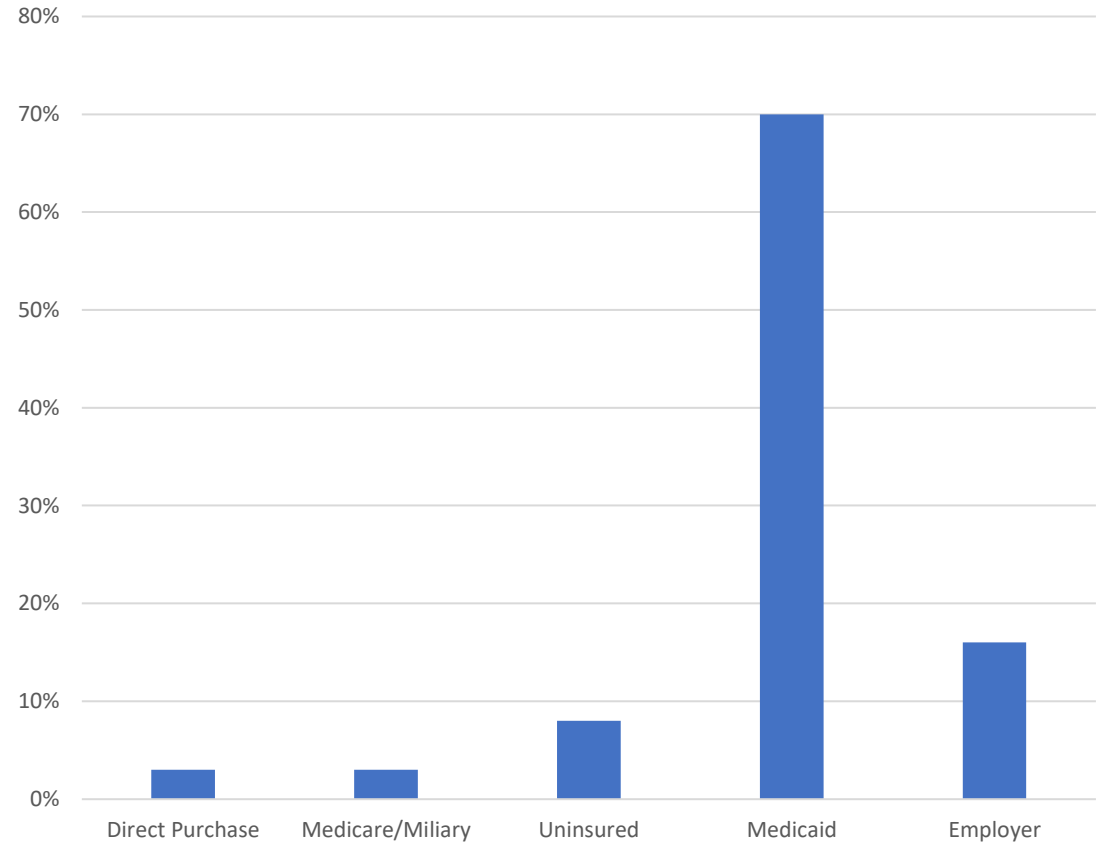
Prior to COVID-19, routine vaccine coverage for children on Medicaid was 2.5% to 12% lower than those with private coverage (CDC).

Health Insurance Coverage Among Children

All Children Ages 5-11



Children Living at 200% Poverty Level



Source: Elizabeth Williams, Medicaid Policy Approaches to Facilitating Access to Vaccines for Low-Income Children, Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), Nov. 18, 2021, <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/medicaid-policy-approaches-to-facilitating-access-to-vaccines-for-low-income-children/>



Leveraging Pharmacists as Accessible Vaccine Providers

- **E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA**
- Advisor for State Government Affairs
- *American Pharmacists Association*

• Pharmacists

- *Experts trained to optimize medications and improve health*



3rd largest profession



2nd most training behind physicians



Highly accessible



Authority throughout the pandemic

- The PREP Act liability coverage and authorities include pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians ability to:
 - Order (pharmacists) and administer COVID-19 tests;
 - **Order (pharmacists) and administer COVID-19 and flu vaccinations (ages 3 years and older);**
 - **Order (pharmacists) and administer all ACIP-recommended childhood vaccines (ages 3-18);**
 - Pharmacists dispense, order, or administer COVID-19 therapeutics

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2023

Contact: HHS Press Office

202-690-6343

media@hhs.gov (<mailto:media@hhs.gov>)

Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap

Based on current COVID-19 trends, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. Our response to the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, remains a public health priority, but thanks to the Administration's whole of government approach to combatting the virus, we are in a better place in our response than we were three years ago, and we can transition away from the emergency phase.

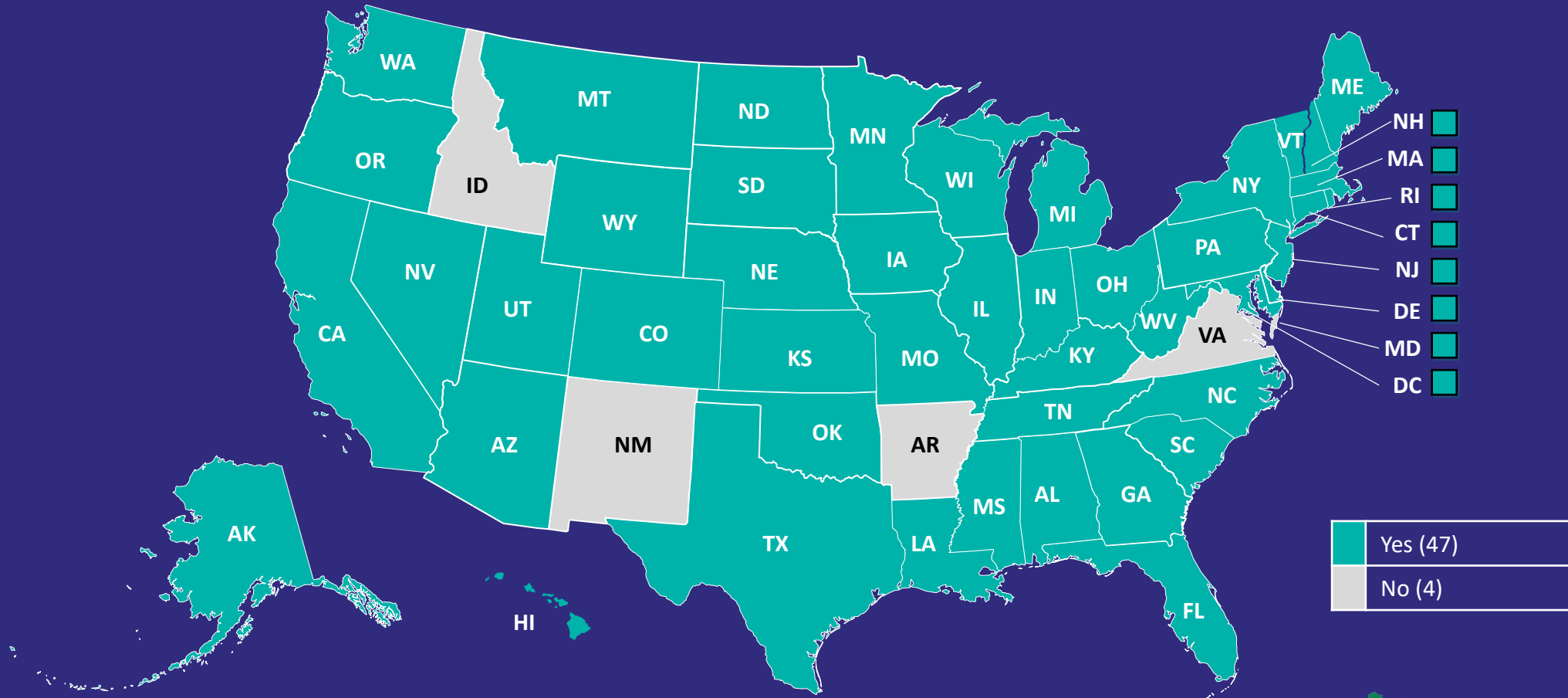
Over the last two years, the Biden Administration has effectively implemented the largest adult vaccination program in U.S. history, with nearly 270 million Americans receiving at least one shot of a COVID-19 vaccine.

As a result of this and other efforts, since the peak of the Omicron surge at the end of January 2022:

- Daily COVID-19 reported cases are down 92%,
- COVID-19 deaths have declined by over 80%, and
- New COVID-19 hospitalizations are down nearly 80%.

We have come to this point in our fight against the virus because of our historic investments and our efforts to mitigate its worst impacts. Addressing COVID-19 remains a significant public health priority for the Administration, and over the next few months, we will transition our COVID-19 policies, as well as the current flexibilities enabled by the COVID-19 emergency declarations, into improving standards of care for patients. We will work closely with partners, including state, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies, industry, and advocates, to ensure an orderly transition.

Will pharmacy personnel's authority to order or administer vaccines be impacted after the end of the PREP Act declarations*?



Pharmacist, pharmacy intern, and pharmacy technicians' expanded authority under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act declarations are scheduled to expire on May 11, 2023, and December, 2024 or sooner, after which authority will defer to state

• Pharmacist authority to administer influenza vaccines

- Pharmacists can administer influenza vaccines in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- The chart shows age limits for pharmacists to administer the vaccine without a patient-specific prescription.
 1. Indicated states can administer influenza vaccines to any age with a prescription.
 2. North Carolina can administer influenza vaccines to ages 6+ with a prescription.
 3. Hawaii and West Virginia can administer influenza vaccines to ages 11+ with a prescription.

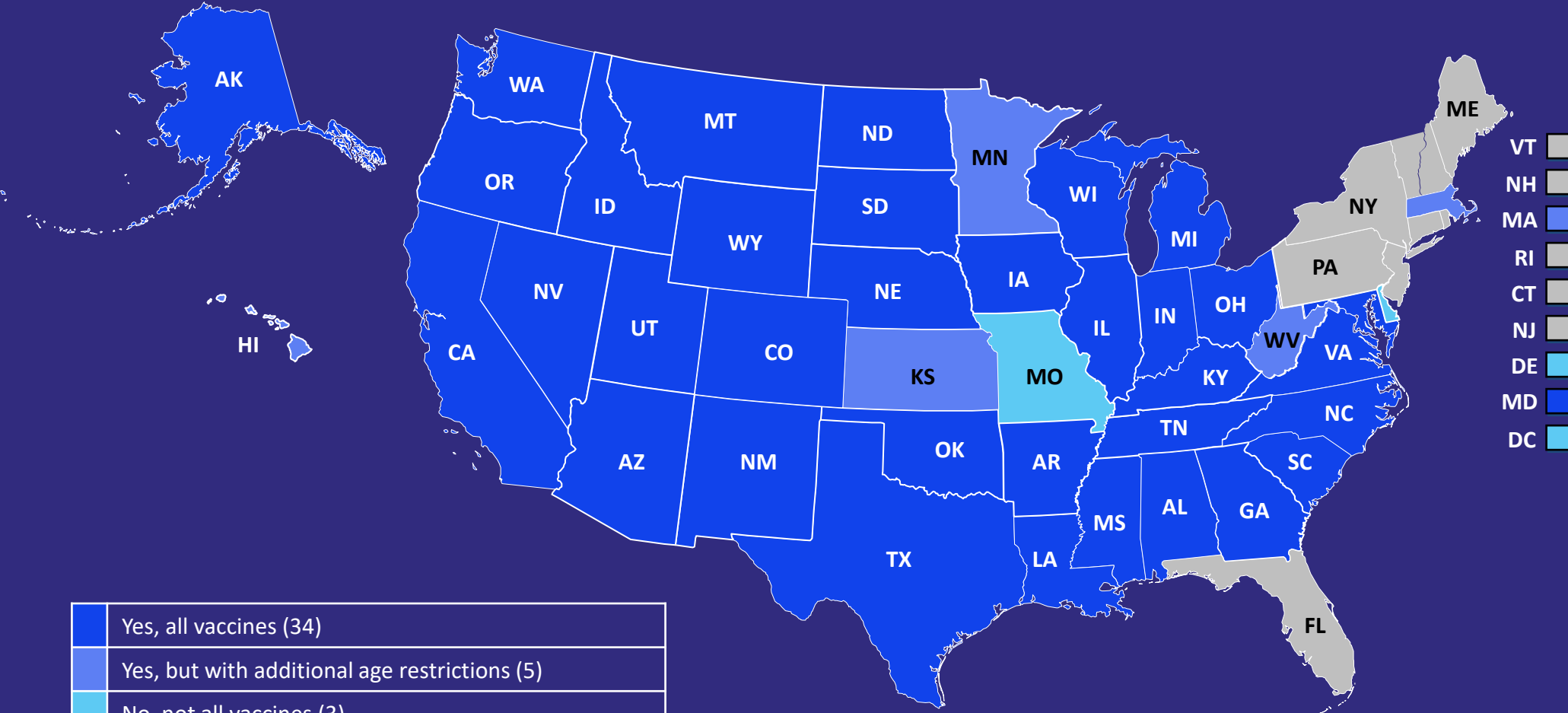
Age	States
Any age / 6 months +	AL, AK, CA, CO, DE, ID, IA, MI, MS, NE, NV, NH, NM, OK, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA
2 years +	NY
3 years +	AZ, AR, MD, NJ, ND
5 years +	PA
6 years +	KS, MN, WI ¹
7 years +	FL, IL, LA ¹ , ME, MO ¹ , MT, OH, OR ¹ , TX ¹ , WY
9 years +	KY ¹ , MA, RI
10 years +	NC ²
11 years +	IN ¹
12 years +	CT, DC ¹ , SC ¹
13 years +	GA ¹
18 years +	HI ³ , VT, WV ³

• State authority for pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccines

- Pharmacists can administer COVID-19 vaccines under state authority in 49 states.
 - Under current state authority, South Carolina would require prescriptions for all COVID-19 vaccines administered by pharmacists.
 - Under current authority, the District of Columbia and Missouri would not allow pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccines.
- The chart shows age limits for pharmacists to administer the vaccine without a patient-specific prescription.
 1. Indicated states can administer COVID-19 vaccines to any age with a prescription.
 2. North Carolina and Arizona can administer COVID-19 vaccines to ages 6+ with a prescription.
 3. Delaware can administer vaccines to ages younger than 18 if the dose is the same concentration as an adult dose.
 4. Hawaii can administer COVID-19 vaccines to ages 14+ with a prescription.
 5. West Virginia can administer COVID-19 vaccines to ages 11+ with a prescription.

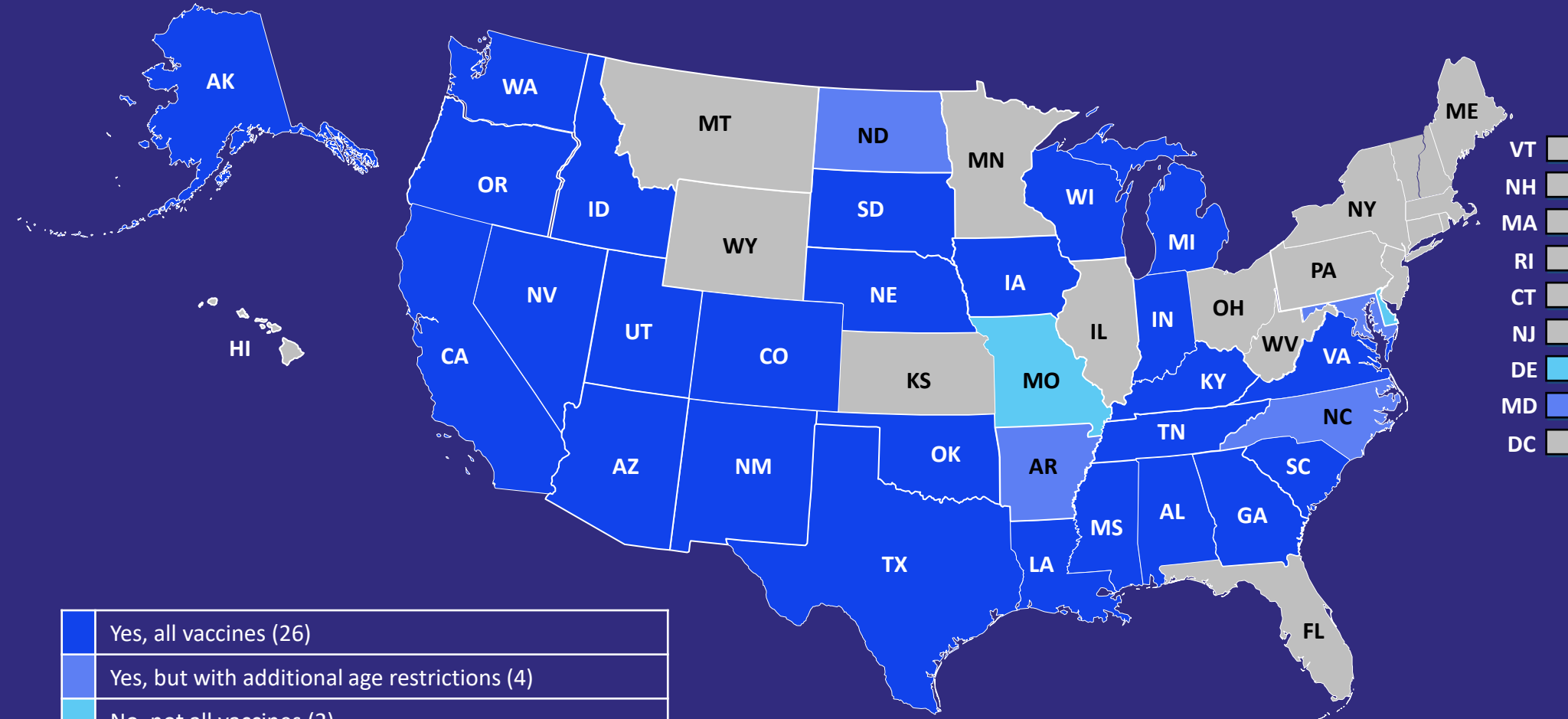
Age	States
Any age	AL, AK, CA, CO, ID, MI, MS, NE, NV, NH, NM, OK, SD, TN, UT, WA
3 years +	AZ, AR, ME, MD, NJ, ND, VA ¹
5 years +	PA
6 years +	MN, WI ¹
7 years +	IL, MT, OH, OR ¹ , WY
9 years +	KY ¹ , MA
10 years +	NC ²
11 years +	IN ¹
12 years +	DE ³ , KS
13 years +	GA ¹
14 years +	TX ¹
17 years +	LA ¹
18 years +	CT, FL, IA ¹ , HI ⁴ , NY, RI, VT, WV ⁵

Can pharmacists administer all vaccines on the CDC RECOMMENDED Immunization schedule for children 7-18 Years old?



Dark Blue	Yes, all vaccines (34)
Light Blue	Yes, but with additional age restrictions (5)
Light Cyan	No, not all vaccines (3)
Light Gray	Not authorized to administer vaccines to individuals under 18 years of age (9)

Can pharmacists administer all vaccines on the CDC RECOMMENDED Immunization schedule for children from birth to 6 Years old?



Dark Blue	Yes, all vaccines (26)
Light Blue	Yes, but with additional age restrictions (4)
Light Cyan	No, not all vaccines (2)
Light Gray	Not authorized to administer routine vaccines to individuals under 7 years of age (19)