

COM-2023-001

January 4, 2023

Dear Pharmacy Providers,

Vaccination is the most important public health intervention for the prevention of infectious diseases. Pharmacists are already an integral part of the Island's vaccination system, and their contribution is significant in vaccination efforts against diseases. The health secretary of Puerto Rico has signed the **Administrative Order Number 556** to exempt pharmacists who hold a Certificate of Vaccine Administration issued by the Puerto Rico Board of Pharmacy from the requirement of a medical order to administer those vaccines listed in the routine immunization schedules recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in accordance with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All pharmacists must meet the age requirement set forth in Law 247-2004, as amended, for persons 12 years of age or older, and the population recommended by the ACIP. In the case of the pediatric dengue vaccine, it is still necessary to issue a medical order and to carry out the necessary laboratory tests to confirm previous dengue infection as established in the applicable guidelines of the Puerto Rico Department of Health and the ACIP recommendations. Authorized pharmacies that offer vaccination services to minors must develop and implement written standards and procedures for the administration of vaccines to this population.

Pharmacies must report the vaccine administrations carried out to the Vaccination Registry (PREIS) established by the Vaccination Program of the Department of Health and in compliance with Law No. 169 of December 12, 2019. The pharmacist must inform the parents or guardians of a minor about the importance of visiting the pediatrician or other health professionals for the well-being of the minor.

This administrative order will be effective immediately.

If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us at 787-522-5252, ext. 220.

Kind regards,

Clinical Department

