NYS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
FACTS 2027

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION of New York State
chcanys.org

Allow Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccinations

CHCANYS, representing 80+ community health centers (CHCs) with nearly 900 sites across the State, strongly recommends that Medical Assistants (MAs) be authorized to administer vaccinations pursuant to qualifying training and supervision.

Medical Assistants are trained and essential members of primary care teams.

- MAs are integral members of primary care teams in CHCs, performing clinical and administrative responsibilities, including conducting patient intakes, measuring vital signs, and collecting laboratory specimens.
- Many MAs live and work in the communities they serve, bringing valuable cultural understanding and trusted relationships that strengthen patient care.
- Medical assisting is a formally trained profession with nationally recognized education and certification pathways. Programs are accredited by bodies such as CAAHEP and ABHES, and graduates may pursue national credentials, including Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) and Registered Medical Assistant (RMA).[1]

New York is not fully utilizing its trained MA workforce.

- Pursuant to State Education Department (SED) guidance, New York does not permit MAs to administer vaccines, despite many MAs completing accredited training programs that include clinical training in administering vaccinations.
- Medical assistants are formally recognized in 49 states including neighboring states such as Connecticut and Massachusetts, where they are authorized to provide a broad range of health-related services, including administering vaccines.
- New York is underutilizing an existing, trained healthcare workforce at a time when CHCs are facing growing demands for preventive care and vaccinations.
- MAs are a growing healthcare workforce New York should leverage. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, an estimated 40,710 MAs were employed in New York in 2025. Nationally, MA employment is projected to grow 13% between 2025 and 2035.[2]

Allowing MAs to vaccinate improves healthcare efficiency and expands access to care.

- Seasonal demand for COVID-19, flu, RSV, and childhood vaccines exacerbates existing workforce challenges at CHCs, stretching an already limited provider capacity.
- Integrating MAs into existing vaccination efforts at CHCs and other health care providers can help relieve provider workload, improve clinic workflows, reduce wait times, and strengthen access to timely preventive care.
- By shifting routine vaccine administration to qualified MAs, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants can focus on more complex clinical responsibilities and higher-acuity care.
- Medical assisting is also an accessible entry point into healthcare, creating pathways for advancement into nursing and other clinical professions while building the future healthcare workforce.

New York should leverage the skills and training of qualified MAs and allow them to vaccinate.

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[1] Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).

[2] Medical Assistants: Occupational Outlook Handbook: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics