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**MONTANA PHARMACY ASSOCIATION**

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***Reminder – Pharmacy Law Changes October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow Pharmacists to Give Flu Shots to those 12 years and older***

Corey Heffernan, Chair of the Montana Pharmacy Association, reminds pharmacists, school officials and the public in general that effective October 1<sup>st</sup> pharmacists can provide influenza (flu) shots to individuals 12 years and older. This change in the law is the result of Senate Bill 189 that was passed by the Montana Legislature during the 2011 session. Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 189, pharmacists were only allowed to provide influenza shots to individuals 18 years and older.

Heffernan states, “By lowering the age, parents will now be able to take children 12 years and older to their pharmacy in the evening or on the weekend to receive an influenza immunization without an appointment.” He added, “Pharmacist-provided influenza immunizations not only save money, but lives. Each year in the United States an estimated 200,000 patients are hospitalized due to influenza or complications arising from influenza infection.”