



TIPS FOR IIS

# PREPARING FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE

A national strategy for a novel COVID-19 vaccine rollout is currently being developed. In the interim, there are things that all immunization programs and immunization information systems (IIS) can do to better prepare for pandemic vaccination. This list includes some ideas for steps to take today.

1

## **ONBOARD** IMMUNIZING PARTNERS

Onboarding all traditional and non-traditional vaccine providers now will save programs valuable time later.

2

## ALIGN WITH **STANDARDS**

Ensuring your IIS aligns with standards facilitates connections with data-sharing partners, such as electronic health records (EHR) systems.

3

## ELIMINATE **DATA EXCHANGE** LIMITATIONS

Changes to local laws or policies may be necessary to ensure timely and complete exchange of data to support routine and pandemic vaccination efforts.

4

## EXPAND **CONSUMER ACCESS**

Providing consumers with access to immunization records and forecasting empowers patients to better manage their healthcare and decreases the record request burden on IIS programs and providers.

# Suggested Steps:

## 1 ONBOARD IMMUNIZING PARTNERS

- **Swiftly onboard** any providers waiting in a testing queue.
- Identify and contact potential immunizing providers to **initiate onboarding now**.
- **Automate and streamline** onboarding functions.
  - Review and implement AIRA's [Onboarding Consensus-Based Recommendations](#).
  - Allow for online registration and electronic signatures; auto-generate provider site IDs or PINs.

## 2 ALIGN WITH STANDARDS

- Verify that all messaging practices are **standards-based**. Ensure the following comply with standards and specifications:
  - HL7 Messaging
  - SOAP/Web Services and the CDC WSDL
  - Clinical Decision Support (CDS)
- Use the [Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool \(AART\)](#) to assess your IIS system's **alignment with standards**. AIRA's Measurement and Improvement process can help IIS better understand enhancements that may be needed.

## 3 ELIMINATE DATA EXCHANGE LIMITATIONS

- Familiarize yourself with **local laws or policies** impacting IIS:
  - Consent (opt-in vs. opt-out)
  - Vaccine reporting mandates
  - Data sharing (across borders and with federal agencies)
  - Provider types permitted to administer vaccines
- Explore **jurisdictional emergency orders** to relax laws and/or policies, as needed.
- Ensure that **interjurisdictional data exchange** is possible:
  - Advocate for signing of the [Memorandum of Understanding for IIS Interjurisdictional Exchange](#).
  - Connect with the [Immunization \(IZ\) Gateway](#) to support IIS to IIS exchange.

## 4 EXPAND CONSUMER ACCESS

- If IIS web access is available to consumers, **test and validate process** for authentication.
- **Expand query/response capabilities** with EHRs to enable consumers to access immunization records in EHR portals.
- If records are only available through Help Desks or provider offices, **develop a strategy for adequate staffing** to manage increased volume of record requests.

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