

# IIS Policies to Support Pandemic and Routine Vaccination

Immunization information systems (IIS) are confidential, highly secure, population-based, computerized databases that record all immunization doses administered by participating healthcare providers to persons residing within a given jurisdiction.

## IIS at a Glance

- 62 independent IIS exist in the U.S. and its territories.
- ~200,000 healthcare provider sites are already connected to and participating in an IIS,<sup>1</sup> with more onboarding each week.
- In the U.S., 95% of children (<6 years), 80% of adolescents, and 56% of adults (≥19 years) have immunization records in an IIS.

## Value of IIS

IIS are the most powerful tool for managing immunization records and supporting healthier communities. IIS are used to:

- ✓ **Consolidate immunization records**  
Comprehensive records containing immunizations administered at a previous provider office, hospital, pharmacy or school clinic prevent patients from receiving too many or too few vaccines.
- ✓ **Respond to outbreaks**  
IIS are a proven tool for responding to outbreaks. IIS have been central to the response to outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, and H1N1.
- ✓ **Order vaccines and manage inventory**  
Vaccine ordering, tracking, and administration are all managed in one tool. Ensuring every vaccine dose is accounted for minimizes waste and saves money.
- ✓ **Conduct coverage assessments**  
Population-level vaccine coverage data provides a clear view of communities at risk.
- ✓ **Vaccine forecasting (clinical decision support)**  
Automated alerts help providers determine which vaccines patients need at the point of care.
- ✓ **Remind patients when vaccines are due**  
A COVID-19 vaccine may require 2 doses. Reminder/recall via IIS can improve coverage rates.

## IIS Policy

States have laws and policies on data exchange, vaccine documentation, immunization information systems (IIS) usage, and consent for IIS participation. Just like you can't turn right at every red light in the country, policies regarding IIS vary by jurisdiction. There is **no overarching national policy** or law governing IIS operations.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/issar-survey-data.html>

## Policy Needs

To more efficiently facilitate a largescale vaccination campaign, decision-makers must act now to ensure that policies support complete and accurate data exchange. Ideally, federal policies would support uniformity; state laws and rules may also support a consistent nationwide pandemic response and routine vaccination.

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### VACCINE REPORTING

**The Need:** Policies that require IIS participation and timely vaccine reporting for all immunizing providers

All vaccine doses administered, along with key data fields (name, DOB, etc.), should be reported to an IIS, for all ages. **Comprehensive data capture** enables public health and lawmakers to fully understand vaccination coverage.

**Enable all vaccine providers to access consolidated records** for their patients in the IIS and record all doses administered into the IIS.

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### DATA EXCHANGE (across borders and with federal agencies)

**The Need:** Policies allowing for interstate data exchange between IIS and federal reporting of aggregate information

#### Cross-jurisdictional Data Exchange

On average, a person in the U.S. changes residence 11 times over a lifetime. **Cross-jurisdictional data exchange is necessary** to ensure truly comprehensive immunization records. This will be particularly important if a COVID-19 vaccine is a multi-dose series.

#### Federal Data Reporting

Allow **aggregate vaccination reports** to be shared by IIS with federal partners. Without a complete national picture of vaccine coverage, CDC will be unable to make data-driven decisions.

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### CONSENT

**The Need:** An opt-out consent policy for IIS participation across all age groups

While the majority of states are opt-out, consent policies in some states require patients to give explicit written or verbal permission to opt-in to have immunization information included in an IIS. **Opt-out policies reduce barriers** to capturing patient immunization information in IIS.

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