

# CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Specification (CVRS)

## Introduction

This specification defines the COVID-19 vaccination reporting requirements to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Immunization Data Clearinghouse (DCH). Whenever possible, existing and new connections between provider organizations and immunization information systems (IISs) should be leveraged to report vaccinations directly to IISs. This specification addresses how IISs will report these data to CDC's DCH, as well as how provider organizations that are unable to report to IISs can still report to CDC's DCH to ensure a comprehensive accounting of administered doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

Currently, this specification supports the submission of de-identified case-level data. It includes reference to identified data elements, but these elements may be populated with "Redacted" or an appropriate coded value.

In the future, this specification will be expanded to include two additional models for reporting. All models of reporting will use the same file format but will vary in what identifying information is provided.

The specification allows for submission of three different types of events: (1) vaccination events, (2) vaccine refusals, and (3) missed appointments. Each has unique requirements and is defined in the "Deidentified Extract Format." Only vaccination events are required to be reported at this time.

## Data Conventions

- 1) All data shall be output to the extract file as UTF-8 encoded text strings without change.
- 2) Fields in the extract file shall be separated by a tab character.  
**NOTE:** It is possible for some extracted data elements to contain one or more tab (ASCII 09) characters. In such instances, any tab characters appearing in data elements shall be mapped to space (ASCII 32) characters in the extract file.
- 3) The first line must be a header row containing the variable names.
- 4) Three data types are used in the extract specification:
  - **String:** Free text fields
  - **Date:** Formatted YYYY-MM-DD or YYYY-MM
  - **Coded Value:** A selection of predefined values **NOTE:** Many coded values are from HL7 with some extensions to support unknown and local law/policy restrictions.
- 5) Field-level data population requirements are defined in the extract specification spreadsheet using the following language:
  - **Required:** These fields must have a value. Without a value, these records will not be accepted by the DCH. For deidentified reporting some fields are defaulted to "Redacted." In coded values, codes have been provided to accommodate local law/policy restrictions or unknown values.
  - **Required if known:** These fields may not have a value 100% of the time, but if the field value is known, it should be populated.
  - **Do not populate:** There are conditional situations where a field does not make sense to populate (e.g., a lot number for a missed appointment). In these cases, the expectation is that the field is left empty, but still represented in the extract (i.e., do not skip the field in the extract).

## Extract File Conventions

- 1) Each day a single file will be extracted and sent to CDC's DCH.
- 2) The extract file shall be named using the format `yyyymmdd_NN.txt`
  - `yyyy` = 4-digit year
  - `mm` = 2-digit month
  - `dd` = 2-digit day of month
  - `_NN` = sequential count of file for given day (e.g., 01, 02). This will likely always be 01.

The date portion of the filename should represent the date being reported, not necessarily the date the extract was run.

## Daily Extract Criteria

### Inclusion Criteria

- 1) Each extract shall include one specific day of data.
- 2) Each extract shall include all newly created vaccination events, refusals, or missed appointments for the day.

**NOTE:** At this time updated and/or deleted records cannot be processed by the DCH; therefore, they should not be sent.

- 3) IISs shall include records even if the patient address is outside of their jurisdiction.
- 4) Patients who have more than one event in a single day (e.g., a refusal and a vaccination event) will have two records (lines) in the extract file.

### Exclusion Criteria

- 1) Previously submitted vaccination events, refusals, or missed appointments shall not be submitted a second, third, etc. time even if they are updated or deleted.

**NOTE:** At this time updated and/or deleted records cannot be processed by the DCH; therefore, they should not be sent.

## Extract Timing

Batch processing may be submitted the morning of the following day (e.g., prior to 4:00 am local time the following day) to allow for nightly calculations or data quality checks to be completed prior to extract and submission to CDC's DCH.