



AIRA
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

Summary of the AIRA Town Hall: COVID-19 Response Planning Thursday, September 24, 2020

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

The following notes are based on discussion and are not intended to be a source for information about CDC activities or policies. For questions related to CDC activities or policies, please email CDC at iisinfo@cdc.gov.

Welcome

Welcome from Mary Beth Kurilo, AIRA, and Aaron Bieringer, AIRA Board President. The purpose of the town hall meeting was to offer space for a community conversation. AIRA is hoping to function as a community convener and is providing this town hall and several planning sessions September 28-October 1. (Registration information is below).

Foundational Resources

AIRA reviewed [several foundational resources](#) that are important for planning. These resources are available [here](#). The materials are password protected, and members can access them by logging in to the [website](#).

COVID-19 Response Planning Sessions

AIRA is offering small group sessions for awardees to develop your COVID-19 response plans with your peers in the IIS community. These working sessions will be one hour in length and focused on roundtable discussions and planning. Four sessions will be offered next week:

- Monday, September 28, at 4 p.m. ET: Register [here](#)
- Tuesday, September 29, at 1 p.m. ET: Register [here](#)
- Wednesday, September 30, at 8 p.m. ET (recommended for Pacific Island jurisdictions and/or night owls): Register [here](#)
- Thursday, October 1, at 3 p.m. ET: Register [here](#)

Initial Questions from Participants

- Will CDC create a fillable version of the provider agreement? AIRA staff believe we heard CDC say “Yes” that they were working on a fillable version.
- Can the provider agreement be in an electronic format? Could there be an electronic signature? Based on feedback from attendees, handwritten and



scanned or using a service like Adobe that has electronic signature functionality would be ok.

- Can an IIS's central IT team attend a COVID-19 Response Planning Session? If they are critical to your team, yes. These calls are not meant to be exclusive.
- Is CDC or the federal government doing anything to help states manage the jurisdiction level laws and policies that are making it challenging to sign the IZ Gateway MOU and APHL DUA (e.g., an emergency declaration)?

Polling Responses from Attendees

Are there other foundational materials that the community needs to know about?

- Details about pharmacies directly receiving COVID-19 vaccine
- Expectations for reporting provider enrollment data
- Guidance about how to manage sharing identifiable information
- Vaccine Finder
- VAMS: how VAMS data will populate HL7 message; VAMS contingency options (ex. PrepMod); VAMS contingency planning assistance
- Recommendation for how to prepare for COVID data flow related to IIS
- Recommendations/plans for contingencies for network outages or other access issues.
- Tiberius
- Updated Q&A responses from CDC most recent calls
- When to expect CVX or NDC codes for COVID-19 vaccines

Do you have mass vax tools or modules you are considering for capturing administered immunizations?

Choices	Responses
Yes - Within our IIS	12
Yes - Outside our IIS	4
No	0
Not sure - we're still evaluating	3

If yes, what tool/tools are you considering (if known)?

- IIS (12)
- VAMS (4)



- PrepMod (3)
- Salesforce (2)
- County-developed tools
- Flat File Import
- IZ Quick Ad – Mass Module
- Primary
- Spreadsheet

If you are considering CDC's VAMS system, what further information (if any) do you need to make that decision?

- Ability to test VAMS/sandbox access (5)
 - Timeline for states to be able to access test environment
- Are we required to use VAMS if our IIS can perform the same functionality?
- Assurance information will get back to IIS in a timely fashion
- Can IIS use the online appointments functionality
 - No – VAMS is all or nothing
- Clarity on what VAMS will send in which fields
- Information on vaccine distribution/inventory workflow.
- Information on all user roles
- Information on any feedback received by employers. Will they use this app?
- Information on Help Desk
- Information to help convince state leadership to allow the use of VAMS
- Inventory features/ Flow of inventory management related data between VAMS, IZ Gateway, and an IIS
- More specificity of functionality
- Onboarding information
- Security, user multi-factor authentication
- Timeline for VAMS availability
- Will photo ID be required
- Will record in VAMS count or is double data entry in EMR system needed

Would you be willing to share your plan for AIRA to post online on the members-only password protected section of the website?

Choices	Votes
Yes	6



No	0
Maybe	6

Of Topics that Need to Be Addressed in Your COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, Which are Highest Priority for Collaboration with your IIS Peers?

The numbers next to questions are the number of people who gave a “thumbs up” to the question on Mentimeter.

- Data quality
 - Have others created COVID-19 data quality plans? (3)
- Data reporting/sharing
 - Are others concerned about requirement for providers to report data within 24 hours after vaccination? (3)
 - Daily reports of data. Why? Is it necessary? (4)
 - De-identified data sharing is a huge problem. What if we can't do that? (5)
 - Do you have a plan to send all of the COVID data every day? (4)
 - How are other jurisdictions feeling about reporting of Personally Identifiable Information (PII)? (9)
 - How are others planning to submit data if they use their IIS? (7)
 - We need to be able to receive data from VAMS -- and have technical questions we need answered. (4)
- Provider enrollment, onboarding, management
 - Do local health departments need to do a profile for every event they plan to have? (1)
 - Provider enrollment (2)
 - What are other jurisdiction plans for rapid onboarding (increased data quality risk)? (6)
- Tools/technology
 - Are others planning to use Access? (0)
 - How are others evaluating other tools/apps like VAMS, Prepmod? (2)
 - How are you working with stakeholders to identify app/tool needs if your IIS doesn't have the functionality (scheduling/appointment)? (2)
 - Leveraging EHR-IIS interfaces during the limited vaccine availability phase (2)
 - Why or why not are you using VAMS and your IIS? (3)
- Vaccine distribution and management
 - Frequency of provider inventory and how is it reported to CDC? (3)



- What is your redistribution process? (3)
- What is your vaccine ordering process? (2)
- Vaccine distribution to large chain pharmacies or military bases (2)

Discussion

- How are other jurisdictions feeling about reporting of PII?
 - IIS are trying to determine if they would need a Governor's Order or a Commissioner's Order to allow it
 - There are challenges with a Commissioner's Order
 - An Executive Order from the Governor's Office could potentially work but would expire once they are no longer in an official emergency situation
 - Need a federal law that could supersede state law
 - Other IIS are in a similar situation – data is confidential and privileged, so a Commissioner's Order will not work
 - IIS are concerned about the ramifications of not being about to share PII
 - Another IIS is trying to get an emergency declaration and modify legislation
 - IIS are wondering if anything is happening at the federal level that could help with these issues with data sharing
 - There is a concern that sharing data with the federal government might make some people less likely to get vaccinated
- How are others planning to submit data if they use their IIS?
 - Hard to plan without knowing what the format will be (e.g., HL7, CSV)
 - Trying to get their HL7 as close to compliant with the national standard as possible in case that is how they can submit data
 - Sharing large data files is a big process and takes a lot of processing power. They would need to look into IT solutions for how to create a CSV or large output file
 - There is an important question about whether you will need to just send the last 24 hours-worth of data vs the entire responses-worth of data every 24 hours. This could be very challenging as extracts require more time to run
 - An IIS is working with there vendor to develop both options (HL7 and CSV)
 - Not sure if all IIS will be connected to the IZ Gateway by the time the vaccine comes out



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Please share your ideas about how AIRA can best support you/the broader community in your planning.

- It would have been great for a national org to have gone to long term care EHRs and university health center EHRs and employee health systems that are outside the MU/MIPS world and helped them connect to IZ Gateway
- Summarize the issues that large number of states are having and share with the larger community
- Technical consultant for questions
- Technical expertise and help