



AIRA
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION REQUEST

Topic: Flat File Uploads and Enhancing Reporting Systems

Request Date: April 24, 2024

Information Requested:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and its IIS team would like to hear from other jurisdictions about how they have handled flat file uploads. Additionally, they are interested in understanding how other IIS have transitioned providers away from legacy reporting formats and into more sustainable reporting processes.

Requesting Member: Sydney Zaldana

Responding Member(s): Aaron Bieringer (MN)

Results:

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Minnesota:

We are still accepting all formats that we have in the past. We have not successfully sunset any previous versions of files. We have done several other things though.

We first created lists of organizations that were using older formats of files and sent out some communications to them asking them to consider upgrading to the latest and greatest. That got a little bit of movement but wasn't enough to end the use of any formats. Next, we decided internally that we would not allow any new instances of an old format being used for new work unless there were serious roadblocks, and we discussed the specific cases internally. This set the expectation with our messaging team to not just keep creating interfaces with old formats and has helped keep the number of senders using old formats down.



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Then the pandemic hit, and we basically went back to allowing data in any way possible. For the most part, this didn't add too many groups sending in older formats because we had a 24-hour reporting requirement and it was easier to do that with newer formats and automation.

We are planning on moving to a new IIS in the next few years and are planning to take that opportunity to, once again, engage with our senders and get them to move off old formats. It's unclear what options people will have, but I am assuming that we won't have several of the current options available anymore.