



## Information for Patients & Parents

### What is an Immunization Information System (IIS)?

An IIS, sometimes called a vaccine registry, is a secure (HIPAA compliant), statewide, web-based system that connects and shares immunization information among public clinics, private provider offices, local health departments, schools, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities that administer immunizations and provide medical care.

The NHIIS (NH's Immunization Information System) is a service of the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health Services (DPHS). The NHIIS maintains vaccine information at no cost to the individual or healthcare provider.

### What are the benefits of NHIIS?

- NHIIS consolidates a patient's vaccine information from multiple health care providers into a single reliable record;
- Healthcare providers have quick and easy access to immunization records for patients when needed (e.g., schools, licensed childcare centers, and/or camp entry requirements);
- NHIIS tracks immunizations so patients only receive needed vaccines when necessary
- In the event of a disease outbreak, NHIIS can assist in identifying if a patient requires immediate vaccination; and
- Healthcare providers will have access to a patient's vaccine history if a patient moves, changes providers, or experiences a natural disaster, such as flood, hurricane, or a disease outbreak.

### Whose information can be included in NHIIS?

The NHIIS can be used to record vaccines for any person, of any age. However, not all healthcare providers participate fully in the NHIIS.

### What information is shared with NHIIS?

Information shared to NHIIS by participating providers may include: Patient name, date of birth, gender, complete address, vaccine name, manufacturer, lot number and administration date.

### Are patient records in NHIIS kept secure?

Yes. NHIIS was designed with multiple security controls in place to protect immunization information and patient confidentiality.

### Is participation in NHIIS mandatory for patients?

- No. Participation in NHIIS is voluntary.
- You have the right to Opt-In or Out of sharing your information with NHIIS by notifying your provider. You may be asked to complete a form indicating your choice.
  - If you choose to Opt-In, you will be asked to provide explicit consent to share your/your child's information and your/your child's vaccination information will be entered in the NHIIS.
  - If you choose to Opt-Out, your information will not be entered in the NHIIS.

### Do other states have Immunization Information Systems?

Immunization Information Systems are operational in all of the other 49 states.

- Some state IIS's share information so that the complete record "follows" the individual no matter where they live.
- NHIIS does not yet have this feature, but when developed, NHIIS participant's information may be exchanged with another state's IIS.

### Do schools have access to this data?

School nurses have "read only" privileges in the NHIIS to view student vaccine records. If your child's record is already in the NHIIS, ask your school nurse, if a paper copy is needed.

### Where can I find additional information?

Speak with your healthcare provider to learn more about the NHIIS. Additional information is available on our website at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disease-prevention/immunizations/nh-immunization-information-system>.

### How do patients obtain copies of their immunization records?

If you have Opted-In (shared) your/your child's vaccine information with the NHIIS, the record can be obtained from the Patient Portal at: <https://www.vaccines.nh.gov/vaccination-record-instructions>

If you have Opted-Out (not shared) your/your child's vaccine information with NHIIS, please contact your provider to obtain a copy of the record.

