



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders
Chief of Staff

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Dear Doctor:

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) would like to call your attention to the imminent launch of the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), our new statewide web-based immunization registry. Immunization information systems play a significant role in improving public health nationwide while also providing an invaluable tool for the management of immunizations within clinical practices. Physicians, other medical providers and staff will realize many long term benefits from NYSIIS, such as reduction in paperwork, staff time and costs associated with immunization related activities.

Some physicians already participate in either HealthyShot or IRIS (Immunization Registry Information Source), the two regional pilot registries in New York State that have been in use for many years. These registries will be combined and expanded to form the new statewide NYSIIS. State legislation passed in 2006, Article 21, Title 6, Section 2168 of the Public Health Law, requires health care providers to report all immunizations administered to persons less than 19 years of age using NYSIIS beginning January 1, 2008. The law also requires that past immunization histories of all persons less than 19 years of age who receive vaccines after January 1, 2008 also be recorded in NYSIIS, if those histories have not already been reported.

Obviously, implementing a statewide electronic system in every physician office is a large undertaking. DOH will rely mainly on training, technical assistance and other supports for physicians and their staff to implement the system. Free training will be available in several formats: classroom, webinar, online tutorial, and a user's manual. Physicians and other providers will not be expected to report to the registry until after training has concluded in their particular region of the state. Although the law provides for penalties for physicians and other providers who do not participate in universal reporting requirements, DOH does not intend to utilize penalties for failure to report until after a full year of implementation (January 1, 2009) and then only after extensive efforts to work with physician offices to implement the system.

For more details on the new legislation and NYSIIS, please review the enclosed list of frequently asked questions. Additional information is available on the Health Provider Network (HPN) on the NYSDOH Health Commerce System at: <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/bcdc/immunization/nysiis.html> or the NYSDOH public website at www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/immunization/information_system/. You may also contact the NYSDOH Immunization Program at (518) 473-4437 or nysiis@health.state.ny.us with questions. We are very appreciative of your participation as we implement this important public health initiative.

Sincerely,



Kimberly A. Noyes, M.D.
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