

Why an immunization registry?

“This system is really great, because if we have a little guy standing there and mom and dad don’t remember what shots he needs, the nurse can just turn to the database and find out what he’s already had.”

— Barbara Schellhorn
Director of Personal Health Services
Bucks County Health Department

“Vaccines do no good if they aren’t used. Creating a system to use them properly is as important as developing vaccines in the first place. One is the product of good science; the other is the product of good governance.”

— Dr. William Foege
Former Director
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)

“It’s easy to ensure coverage of school-age children because they must provide vaccination records to enter school. How do you find and immunize all the 2-year olds without a registry? Without a comprehensive registry it’s difficult for health providers to check which shots a child may already have, so some are overimmunized for some diseases and underimmunized for others.”

— Rosalynn Carter
Co-Founder
Every Child By Two

FACTS:

- ◆ Registries are endorsed by many professional organizations, such as:
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
 - American Medical Association (AMA)
 - National Medical Association (NMA)
- ◆ One in five U.S. children receives at least one unnecessary dose of vaccine by the age of two, wasting \$26.5 million in vaccine costs each year.
- ◆ More than 22 percent of U.S. children have seen at least two health care providers in their first two years of life, making it difficult to maintain a complete immunization record.
- ◆ The average cost to manually retrieve, review, and update a child’s immunization record is \$14.40, more than three times the cost of maintaining it in an immunization registry.

Source:
All Kids Count—www.allkidscount.org
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—www.cdc.gov/nip



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Statewide Immunization Information System



An overview of Pennsylvania’s
Immunization Registry

Phone: (877) 774-4748

Pennsylvania Department of Health

www.health.state.pa.us/pasiis

What is the PA-SIIS?

Managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the PA Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS) is a statewide immunization registry that collects vaccination history information. It was developed to achieve complete and timely immunization for all people, particularly in the age group most at risk, birth through two years of age.

The PA-SIIS helps to serve the public health goal of preventing the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases. A major barrier to reaching this goal is the continuing difficulty of keeping immunization records accurate and up to date. The PA-SIIS addresses this problem by capturing immunization information from health care providers and storing this information in one central location. If a child receives immunizations from more than one health care provider, the PA-SIIS consolidates the immunization information from all providers to create a complete and current record. This assists health care providers to age-appropriately immunize all patients in their care.



Benefits of Immunization Registries

Parents and Registry Participants

- ◆ Provides an official, easily attainable immunization history for school, camp, and day care enrollment
- ◆ Assists with identifying missing immunizations
- ◆ Prevents unnecessary immunizations

Health Care Providers

- ◆ Provides a complete and accurate immunization history for a new or existing patient
- ◆ Assists with vaccine management
- ◆ Produces immunization records for managed care, day care centers, schools, and camps
- ◆ Electronically stores all required immunization data, which will assist with Vaccines for Children (VFC) and The Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) reporting
- ◆ Reduces unnecessary paperwork

Communities

- ◆ Identifies populations at high risk for vaccine-preventable diseases
- ◆ Helps prevent disease outbreaks

Frequently Asked Questions:

How is patient information entered into the PA-SIIS?

There are two ways:

- 1) All birth records from 1996 to date are electronically imported into the PA-SIIS weekly.
- 2) Each PA-SIIS participating provider site enters the information for their patients receiving immunizations.

Is the PA-SIIS secure/confidential?

The PA-SIIS policies and agreements protect against unauthorized disclosure of immunization and patient information. Software security guards data (passwords, timeout sessions, etc.). The PA-SIIS complies with The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

How do I begin using the PA-SIIS?

The PA-SIIS is a Web-based registry that is currently available to health care providers and their staff. The only equipment you will need to use the PA-SIIS is a computer with Internet access. At no cost to you, the Department of Health will provide:

- ◆ Confidentiality agreement, username, and password to access the PA-SIIS on-line
- ◆ Start-up assistance
- ◆ Instruction manual and training
- ◆ Ongoing technical support

To schedule an orientation for your staff, please complete a Provider Interest form at www.health.state.pa.us/pasiis.