



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

June 4, 2008

Dear Doctor:

The purpose of this letter is to share additional information regarding the implementation of the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), New York's new statewide web-based immunization registry. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has undertaken this public health initiative, pursuant to Article 21, Title 6, Section 2168 of the Public Health Law, to improve the health of children in New York State. However, this initiative can be effective only in partnership with the physicians and providers who directly care for children. The purpose of this letter is to address some of the concerns that have been brought to our attention.

Entering historical immunization data

Since NYSIIS is being implemented regionally, some physicians still do not have all of the details about how NYSIIS works. This has led to concern about NYSIIS implementation, in particular the time it will take to enter historical data. NYSIIS is based on software developed and used successfully for a number of years in 12 other states. As a result, the data entry process has been streamlined. For children born in New York since January 1, 2004, a NYSIIS record will already exist in the system; therefore, the name and other demographic information will not have to be reentered. For entry of historical data, only two pieces of data are required to be entered: the date of vaccination and type of vaccine. With practice, the full vaccine history on an older child can be entered in less than five minutes, with less time needed for younger children. We encourage you and/or your staff to get trained on the system and its features. Formal in-person and webinar training is ongoing throughout the state (schedule enclosed). If you would like to try the system before scheduled training in your region, a training account can be set up and you can then access the user manual online.

Electronic data entry

Additional options are available for automatic data entry into NYSIIS of current and historical data maintained in billing systems or electronic medical records. Department of Health staff are available to work on these options with your staff or software vendor. If you would like to follow up on these offers of technical assistance, please contact the NYSIIS Technical Help Desk at 1-866-389-0371 or nysiishelpdesk@eds.com.

Benefits of the immunization information system

NYSIIS is not intended to be primarily a system to report data to the state. The true benefit to physicians will be in the information they get out of the system. This includes tools to help in managing the complex pediatric vaccine schedule such as patient-specific reminders of vaccine doses recommended; reminders of patients due or overdue for immunizations; warnings

about invalid vaccine doses; prospective tracking of vaccine lot numbers in the event of recalls; and the ability to generate reminder and recall notices for patients. Practice and physician coverage levels can be tracked and official immunization records printed for entrance into daycare, school, camp and college. Without the historical data in the system, much of this functionality will be lost. A recent article in *Pediatrics* indicated that, once fully implemented, immunization registries can be cost saving in the long run (*Pediatrics*. 2006; 188 (3): 1293-1295).

Partnerships with providers

The Department has worked closely with provider groups regarding this immunization initiative. Input was received from a variety of sources including the Medical Society of the State of New York, the New York State Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Department has been clear in communications with these groups that technical assistance, training, education and joint problem solving are the main tools to implement NYSIIS so that the system can be made to work for everyone to improve child health. The Department does not intend to rely on penalties or sanctions during the implementation of the system, which will take several years to fully implement. Physicians are asked to work with the Department through this process and take the opportunity to see the system and become familiar with it. Recognizing the unique needs of each physician's office, NYSIIS staff is providing individualized technical assistance for practices and will continue to do so throughout the implementation period.

Your support of New York's new web-based application and cooperation throughout the implementation period is invaluable to the system's success. For more details on NYSIIS, please visit our web site at: http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system or on the NYSDOH Health Commerce System at: <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/bcdc/immunization/nysiis.html>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact NYSIIS staff at the NYSDOH Immunization Program at (518) 473-4437 or nysiis@health.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,



Guthrie Birkhead, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Public Health

Enclosure

cc: Local Health Department Commissioners and Public Health Directors

NYSIIS 2008 Classroom Training Schedule

**** Save the Date **** Detailed Training and Registration Information Available at:
https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/bcdc/immunization/training_info.html

Downstate Region May 15 - June 15

Newburgh - May 20-21

Hilton Garden Inn
15 Crossroad Court
Newburgh, NY

May 20 9:00 am - Noon
May 20 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

May 21 9:00 am - Noon
May 21 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Westchester/White Plains - May 20-22

Hampton Inn
200 Tarrytown Road
Elmsford, NY 10523

May 20 9:00 am - Noon
May 20 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

May 21 9:00 am - Noon
May 21 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

May 22 9:00 am - Noon
May 22 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oneonta - May 20 & 22

(Seating Preference for HealthyShot users)

SUNY College of Oneonta
108 Ravine Parkway
Oneonta, NY 13820
Room: TBD

May 20 9:00 am - Noon
May 20 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

May 22 9:00 am - Noon
May 22 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Rockland - May 28 & 29

(Seating Preference for HealthyShot users)

Rockland County Sain Building
18 New Hempstead Rd, 5th floor
SMART Classroom
New City, 10956

May 28 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

May 29 9:00 am - Noon
May 29 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Mt. Kisco - June 2-3

Holiday Inn
1 Holiday Inn Drive
Mt. Kisco, NY

June 2 9:00 am - Noon
June 2 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 3 9:00 am - Noon
June 3 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Poughkeepsie - June 3-5

Courtyard Marriott
2641 South Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

June 3 9:00 am - Noon
June 3 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 4 9:00 am - Noon
June 4 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 5 9:00 am - Noon
June 5 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

White Plains June 3-4 and 10-11

(Seating Preference for HealthyShot users)

Pace University Graduate Center
1 Martine Ave.
White Plains, NY 10606

**Parking is under the building. Training participants will receive a pass to park for \$3.50.*

June 3 9:00 am - Noon
June 3 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 4 9:00 am - Noon
June 4 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 10 9:00 am - Noon
June 10 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 11 9:00 am - Noon
June 11 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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Long Island	June 15 - July 15
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Nassau County - June 17-18

Hilton Garden Inn
1575 Privado Road
Westbury, NY

June 17 9:00 am - Noon
June 17 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 18 9:00 am - Noon
June 18 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Melville/Suffolk County - June 24-26

New Horizons
1600 Walt Whitman Road
Melville, NY 11747-3088

June 24 9:00 am - Noon
June 24 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 25 9:00 am - Noon
June 25 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 26 9:00 am - Noon
June 26 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Melville/Suffolk County - July 15-17

New Horizons
1600 Walt Whitman Road
Melville, NY 11747-3088

July 15 9:00 am - Noon
July 15 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

July 16 9:00 am - Noon
July 16 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

July 17 9:00 am - Noon
July 17 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Riverhead - July 15-16

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
1707 Old Country Road
Riverhead, NY 11901

July 15 9:00 am - Noon
July 15 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

July 16 9:00 am - Noon
July 16 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

NYSIIS 2008 Live Webinar Training Schedule

**** Save the Date ****

Register for webinars at: <http://nysdoh.webex.com>.

Open "Training Center" and click on the tab labeled "Upcoming."

Note that additional webinars may be listed on page 2 of the WebEx site.

Select a training session in WebEx and click on the registration icon to the far right.

Administrative User Training

March

March 18 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
March 26 9:30am - 12:30 pm
March 20 9:30am - 12:30 pm

April

April 1 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
April 4 9:00am - Noon
April 15 9:00am - Noon
April 17 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
April 22 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
April 28 9:00am - Noon

May

May 5 9:00am - Noon
May 12 9:00am - Noon
May 14 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
May 16 9:00am - Noon
May 28 9:00am - Noon

June

June 9 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
June 10 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
June 11 9:30am - 12:30 pm
June 12 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
June 17 9:30am - 12:30 pm
June 19 9:30am - 12:30 pm
June 23 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
June 25 9:00am - Noon
June 26 9:00am - Noon

July

July 9 9:30am - 12:30 pm

Standard User Training

March

March 19 9:30am - 12:30 pm
March 24 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
March 31 9:30am - 12:30 pm

April

April 2 9:30am - 12:30 pm
April 3 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
April 14 9:30am - 12:30 pm
April 16 9:30am - 12:30 pm
April 24 9:30am - 12:30 pm

May

May 1 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
May 2 9:30am - 12:30 pm
May 7 9:30am - 12:30 pm
May 8 9:30am - 12:30 pm
May 29 1:00pm - 4:00 pm

June

June 2 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
June 5 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
June 9 9:00am - Noon
June 10 9:30am - 12:30 pm
June 12 9:00am - Noon
June 18 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
June 24 9:00am - Noon
June 30 9:30am - 12:30 pm

July

July 1 9:30am - 12:30 pm
July 8 1:00pm - 4:00 pm
July 10 9:30am - 12:30 pm