



## New Jersey Immunization Information System and Two Way Messaging Frequently Asked Questions

### What is two way messaging?

Two way messaging is exchanging information between two health systems to send and receive data from other information systems. Two way messaging between an electronic medical record (EMR) and NJIIS will utilize Health Level Seven (HL7) format to exchange immunization data.

For the past several years, immunization data from EMRs has been sent to NJIIS through interfaces - offering one way messaging capabilities. With the two way messaging, providers will be able to query NJIIS to populate a patient's immunization record into their own EMR.

### What are the benefits of two way messaging with NJIIS?

- Helps in providing a complete immunization record for a patient.
- Reduces paper work
- Facilitates better patient care
- Provides increased access to a patient's immunization record to aid in decision-making and helps to reduce redundancies in treatment.

### What is Health Level Seven (HL7)?

Health Level Seven (HL7) is a standardized format for exchanging health-related information including patient records, laboratory results and immunization history between different health service delivery systems.

In today's healthcare environment, there is an increasing demand for hospitals, healthcare centers and private practices to receive and send critical data to better manage patient health. With multiple clinical applications, sharing data can become a difficult process. The HL7 standard allows these healthcare institutions to seamlessly exchange data resulting in improved patient care delivery and enhanced knowledge transfer.

### What if my EMR does not use HL7 standard format?

All vendors certified for meaningful use have HL7 capability. Alternatively, vendors may offer HL7 interface engines that can be added to your EMR system. Please check with your EMR vendor for more information.

### What version of HL7 do I need to achieve two way messaging with NJIIS?

HL7 version 2.5.1 will be needed to access two way messaging with NJIIS.



### How does two way messaging work?

The following explains the differences between one-way and two way messaging:

**One way messaging:** immunization data from EMRs is sent to NJIIS through an interface.

**Two way messaging:** a provider can query the NJIIS to populate a patient's immunization record into their own EMR.

### How long does it take to exchange information with NJIIS?

The amount of time required for the exchanging of information with NJIIS depends upon whether you are using one way or two way messaging.

Sending information to NJIIS via interface (one way messaging)—New Jersey Administrative Code 8:57-3, requires a provider to report vaccines within 30 days of administration. Each provider works with their EMR vendor to set up their schedule for sending data to NJIIS – daily, weekly, monthly.

Receiving a query response from NJIIS (two way messaging)—The response will be instantaneous including feedback when patient is not found.

### What information will I get back from NJIIS using two way messaging?

Patient demographic information and immunization history for patients.

### How do I get started?

To establish an electronic interface with NJIIS you will need to visit the NJIIS home page: <https://njiis.nj.gov>. Click on Interface Enrollment. Download the "Interface Specifications for HL7 Message Type 2.5.1." document and study it with your EMR vendor. Click on the "NJIIS Interface Enrollment Request Form" link and fill out the online electronic form. Please note that NJIIS will only accept this form electronically.

### What does it cost to implement two way messaging with NJIIS?

There are no costs associated with interfacing with NJIIS. However, please speak with your electronic medical record (EMR) vendor regarding costs that may be associated with integrating NJIIS information back into your EMR system.

### Where can I get more information?

Webpage:  
<https://njiis.nj.gov>

Submit an online inquiry request:

<https://hipocrates.nj.gov/SurveyAuth?mth=openSurvey&id=14589>

