

# *New Jersey Department of Health*

## *Vaccine Preventable Disease Program*

### **New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Q: What is the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS)?**

**A:** A free, confidential, population-based online system that collects and consolidates vaccination data for New Jersey's children and adults. The NJIS is the official Immunization Registry per the Statewide Immunization Registry Act - NJAC 8:57, subchapter 3, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. (P.L. 2004, c. 138).

**Q: What is the purpose of NJIS?**

**A:** NJIS provides current recommended immunization schedules for infants, adolescents and adults. It consolidates immunization information from all providers into one record to provide an accurate immunization assessment and eliminates the use of manual vaccine administration logs.

NJIS assists state and federal agencies with population assessments in the event of a preventable disease outbreak and helps communities assess their immunization coverage and identify pockets of need.

**Q: Who can enroll as an authorized user of NJIS?**

**A:** Any health care provider, child care center, school, college or university, health plan, billing and practice management vendor, state or local public health, and agencies or designated agents thereof may participate in NJIS.

**For health care practitioners (HCP), there is one more very important reason to enroll in NJIS. A HCP that immunizes children less than seven (7) years of age is required by State regulation to enroll as an authorized user of NJIS and report vaccinations to NJIS. Mandatory participation is stipulated in New Jersey Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 8:57-3.16.**

**Q: Whose responsibility is it to enter the immunization records into NJIS?**

**A:** It is the responsibility of the HCP - not the entity in which he/she operates - to assure that the data are entered or sent to NJIS. The HCP shall report to the NJIS vaccines administered to children less than seven years of age within 30 days of administration. Practices that participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program are required to enter all VFC doses administered, regardless of the patient's age, into NJIS to demonstrate accountability for all

doses of VFC vaccine. The HCP must report all doses administered to children less than seven years of age to NJIIS, regardless of funding source of the vaccine (VFC or private).

**Q: Should only HCP that vaccinate children less than 7 years of age enroll?**

**A:** The NJIIS is a lifespan registry and can be used for entering all vaccine doses administered regardless of the patient's age. Clinicians who administer vaccines to adolescents and adults are strongly encouraged to become NJIIS users. By using NJIIS for all patients, regardless of age, you can have a single source for all immunizations administered.

**Q: How are patients enrolled in NJIIS?**

**A:** Since 2004, all children born in New Jersey, on or after January 1, 1998, are automatically enrolled through the electronic birth certificate. Ensure that parents are provided a copy of the NJIIS Informational Brochure *“Immunization Registry Brochure—Your Child’s Best Shot”* [https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/njiis\\_your\\_childs\\_bestshot.pdf](https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/njiis_your_childs_bestshot.pdf) before or upon the newborn’s discharge from the facility.

**Q: My patient is not enrolled in NJIIS because he/she was born out of state or born before January 1, 1998. How do I enroll my patient?**

**A:** Anyone born before January 1, 1998 may enroll in NJIIS voluntarily by completing a *“NJIIS Consent to Participate”* form, which can be found at <https://njiis.nj.gov> under *Documents/Forms*. Ensure that the parent/patient is provided a copy of the NJIIS Informational Brochure *“Immunization Registry Brochure—Your Child’s Best Shot”* [https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/njiis\\_your\\_childs\\_bestshot.pdf](https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/njiis_your_childs_bestshot.pdf) and keep the signed *“NJIIS Consent to Participate”* form as part of the patient’s medical record. For providers that report data to NJIIS via electronic interface, the consent for patients born before January 1, 1998 must be documented in the appropriate field in order for those patients to be added to NJIIS.

**Q: How will NJIIS benefit a medical practice?**

**A: NJIIS:**

- Provides access to a child’s complete and accurate immunization history;
- Produces a child’s official immunization record;
- Consolidates immunization information from all health care providers;
- Reduces over-vaccination of new patients;
- Generates reminder/recall notices;
- Manages and maintains vaccine inventory;
- Provides results of preventive health screenings;
- Produces the Universal Child Health Record;
- Reduces paperwork and staff time spent obtaining records and responding to record requests;
- Aids in documentation to facilitate proper reimbursement by tracking administered vaccines;
- Runs reports and tracks Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures;

- Qualifies as a meaningful use measure for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program.

**Q: How will NJIIS benefit a health plan and participating providers?**

**A: NJIIS:**

- Improves the quality of care for beneficiaries;
- Increases the health plans immunization HEDIS rates;
- Reduces or eliminates the need for on-site visits to monitor immunization rates;
- Generates timely immunization reports;
- Reduces costs associated with over-vaccination and serology testing.

**Q: How does NJIIS work?**

**A:** NJIIS is a web-enabled application accessible through the internet. Participating HCPs can input and retrieve immunization information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. NJIIS also offers an electronic interface option with providers' EHR systems.

**Q: How do I get started?**

**A:** Visit the NJIIS web site: <https://njiis.nj.gov> and click on *Enrollment & Training*. Complete the "NJIIS Enrollment Request for New Sites and NJIIS User Enrollment and Training Request " form and fax or mail to the regional trainer for your county (list below):

**NJIIS Training Opportunities**

Contact Person	Contact Information	Counties Served
Joann Jablonski Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey	Phone: 973-268-2280 X 105 Fax: 866-894-9183 Email: <a href="mailto:jjablonski@partnershipmch.org">jjablonski@partnershipmch.org</a>	Essex, Morris, Union, and Warren
Leanne Loewenthal Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey	Phone: 973-268-2280 X140 Fax: 866-894-9183 Email: <a href="mailto:Loewenthal@partnershipmch.org">Loewenthal@partnershipmch.org</a>	Bergen, Hudson, Sussex and Passaic
Patricia Kaiser Central Jersey Family Health Consortium	Phone: 732-345-0500 Fax: 732-345-0505 Email: <a href="mailto:pkaiser@cjfhc.org">pkaiser@cjfhc.org</a>	Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset
Barbara Alston Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative	Phone: 856-665-6000 X 337 Fax: 856-665-7711 Email: <a href="mailto:balston@snjpc.org">balston@snjpc.org</a>	Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem

**Q: Will I be liable for the information I submit to the NJIIS?**

**A:** No, as set forth in New Jersey Administrative Code, (N.J.A.C. 8:57-3.21): "Any authorized user submitting, providing, or otherwise transmitting vaccine or preventive health screening information to the NJIIS in good faith to further the purposes of promoting public health, providing patient care, or fostering regulatory compliance, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. ..., shall not be held liable for divulging confidential registrant information."

Additionally, "Any authorized user reporting, retrieving, or disclosing information relating to the NJIIS pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. ... shall be immune from liability for any error or inaccuracy contained in the NJIIS information and any consequences thereof as set forth at N.J.S.A. 26:4-135(b)."

**Q: What about the HIPAA privacy rule, is NJIIS HIPAA compliant?**

**A:** Yes, NJIIS is recognized as a public health entity and is consistent with the privacy and confidentiality principles set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

**Q: Will the EHR that I use be compatible with NJIIS?**

**A:** Many practices are already using EHRs that interface with the NJIIS to report immunization data. The NJIIS Interface System has been defined to provide a standard mechanism for the transfer of information between NJIIS and heterogeneous systems. The data can be submitted electronically via the NJIIS website, SFTP server, or with a real time web service interface.

You will be able to perform the following NJIIS transactions through the submission of electronic files:

- Add a new patient to NJIIS.
- Add, update, and delete immunizations for a patient.

**Q: What do I do to establish an electronic interface with NJIIS?**

**A:** Please find information about interface enrollment in the NJIIS Getting Started document, located below:

[https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/interfaces/NJIIS\\_Get\\_Start\\_InterfaceDoc.pdf](https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/interfaces/NJIIS_Get_Start_InterfaceDoc.pdf)

Once you have reviewed the NJIIS Getting Started document, please complete the online interface enrollment request form:

<https://njiis.nj.gov/core/web/index.html#/enrollmentform>

**Q: Does use of the NJIIS qualify as meaningful use for Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs?**

**A:** For specific information on meaningful use and NJIIS please visit the NJDOH web site at: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/meaningfuluse/index.shtml>

In order to satisfy the Public Health Meaningful Use Criteria, eligible hospitals and providers should deliver information in one of the following areas to NJDOH:

- Immunization Reporting (Providers and Hospitals)
- Syndromic Surveillance (Hospitals –Emergency Department Data only)
- Electronic Laboratory Reporting (Hospitals only)

Eligible providers will have to satisfy the Immunization Reporting criterion. Eligible hospitals may choose any of the 3 above criteria.

Immunization Registries Data Submission is an eligible professional meaningful use measure. The objective is to have the capability to submit electronic data to immunization registries or immunization information system and actual submission according to applicable law and practice. Please visit the NJDOH website at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/meaningfuluse/index.shtml> for specific information on NJIIS and meaningful use.

**Q: Who do I contact for additional information?**

**A:** For more information about enrolling as a new site or user, visit NJIIS online at <https://njiis.nj.gov> and click “*NJIIS Training Opportunities*” and contact the Maternal and Child Health Consortium Regional Trainer in your county.

To report an issue or other question, please go to Submit a Request on the NJIIS homepage to submit your inquiry. This will link you to an online form that will either direct you to relevant resources on our website or route your request to the appropriate programmatic or technical staff for resolution.