

November 4, 2013

Dear NYSIIS User:

This letter is to inform you of recent changes to New York State Public Health Law §2168 pertaining to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) as a result of Chapter 154 of the Laws of 2013. Enclosed is a summary of the five amendments that became effective July 12, 2013.

Most importantly, the previous requirement that express written consent be obtained for persons aged 19 and older has been eliminated, permitting verbal consent to record adult immunization information into NYSIIS or the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).

All health care providers and pharmacists that administer immunizations to persons 19 years of age or older are **still required to obtain consent** to submit immunization information, however, it may now be obtained verbally or included in your organization's existing consent form. This amendment will alleviate the burden to utilize and maintain the NYSIIS consent form. The current NYSIIS consent form will remain available for anyone who wishes to continue to use it. Organizations may use language from the NYSIIS consent form to incorporate into their existing patient forms or to provide patients with a brief description of NYSIIS.

Regardless of how consent is obtained, it must still be documented as being obtained in NYSIIS. This may be done by either manually updating the consent indicator to "yes" or insuring consent is documented in your electronic medical record (EMR) and electronically submitted to NYSIIS. The option for anyone 19 years of age or older to withdraw consent is still in effect and an optional NYSIIS Withdrawal of Consent form is available from the NYSIIS home page under "Forms" or on the New York State Department of Health (the Department) website at: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/providers/ for this purpose.

A full copy of the revised Public Health Law 2168 is available on the Department NYSIIS website:
http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/laws_and_regulations/

The revised consent requirement should prompt health care providers to ask adult patients for consent to be included in NYSIIS. Inclusion of adults in NYSIIS will contribute to the establishment of a fully developed population-based system of complete, accurate, and secure immunization records. This effort also enhances statewide immunization programs intended to reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable disease.

For more details on the legislation and NYSIIS, including how to gain access, please visit our website: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/

We appreciate your support for this important public health activity as your participation is invaluable to the program's success. Please contact NYSIIS at (518) 473-2839 or email nysiis@health.ny.gov with additional questions.

Sincerely,

Dina Hoefler, Ph.D.
Program Manager of NYSIIS
Bureau of Immunization

Enclosure

New York State Public Health Law (PHL) 2168
Summary of Revisions
Passed by the Legislature and effective July 12, 2013

Item 1(a): Inclusion of colleges, professional schools and technical schools, children's overnights camps and summer day camps among the authorized users:

Amendment of PHL § 2168(2)(a) including Colleges as defined in Education Law § 2, professional and technical schools as referred to in the definition of higher education under Education Law § 2, children's overnight camps and summer day camps as defined in §1392 of this chapter, have been included as authorized users for the purpose of verifying immunization status for eligibility of admission.

Item 1(b): Access to NYSIIS and the CIR for colleges, professional schools and technical schools, children's overnight camps and summer day camps: Amendment to PHL § 2168(8)(d) in order to permit colleges, professional and technical schools, children's overnight camps and summer day camps to access NYSIIS and CIR for the purpose of verifying student eligibility for admission. See above.

Note: The above mentioned users will be permitted **Read Only** access to NYSIIS. To obtain access, a Health Commerce System (HCS) account and participation in the NYSIIS School Access training is required. For more HCS account and training information, go to the following NYSIIS website:

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/schools/

Item 2: Revised consent requirements for persons 19 years of age or older: Amendment to PHL § 2168(3)(a), to provide that individuals who are 19 years or older can consent to have their immunizations registered in NYSIIS and CIR verbally, eliminating the express written consent requirement.

Item 3: Inclusion of Indian Health Service and tribal nations as authorized users of NYSIIS: Amendment of PHL § 2168(11) to permit Indian or tribal nations recognized by New York State or the United States to access NYSIIS and CIR for the purposes of submitting and receiving immunization information regarding their populations.

Item 4: Access to de-identified information within the NYSIIS or CIR for research purposes: Amendment to PHL § 2168(8)(e) authorizes institutions of higher education, medical research centers or similar institutions to access de-identified information in NYSIIS or CIR for the purpose of public health research, if approved by the Commissioner of Health or the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as appropriate.

Note: The process by which institutions can request this data is being developed. If you have any questions, please submit to nysiis@health.state.ny.us.