



**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Immunization Information System (IIS) Data Exchange Fact Sheet**  
*For more information contact the Tennessee Immunization Information System (TennIIS) team*

## Introduction

The Tennessee Immunization Information System (TennIIS) team within the Department of Health has programmatic oversight of the state's Immunization Information System (IIS, "Registry") and its web interface, known as the TennIIS.

TennIIS gives authorized immunizing providers the ability to submit and obtain comprehensive vaccine records on any patients in the system. TennIIS accepts immunizations administered in **any** clinical setting by **any** authorized immunizing provider to recipients of **all ages**.

## Accessing and Using TennIIS

Any immunization provider with internet access may use TennIIS at: <https://www.TennesseeIIS.gov/tnsiis/>. "Immunization provider" is defined as any healthcare provider who administers an immunization to any patient and includes employee health clinics and all practices that care for children or adults.

- Authorized Immunization Providers (AIPs) can register for secure site access to patient data in TennIIS. AIPs include anyone who may prescribe or independently administer an immunization, including physicians, advance practice nurses, physician assistants or pharmacists. AIPs may authorize access for additional staff members under their user agreement.
- The following functions are available, at no cost, through the TennIIS website:
  - Locate a patient's record of immunizations given by any provider who reports data to TennIIS; add administered and historical vaccine records, and manually update patient's demographic information.
  - Using the Immunization Certificate Validation Tool (ICVT) to print validated, prepopulated, or blank Official Tennessee Immunization Certificates which are required for childcare, preschool, and school.
  - A sophisticated vaccine forecasting algorithm that reflects current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) standards, patient reminder recall to improve complete immunizations appropriate to age and risk, and reduce missed vaccination opportunities.
  - Participants in the VFC program may use the Vaccine Ordering and Management System (VOMS) to place VFC vaccine orders, manage their vaccine inventory, run accountability reports, administered VFC vaccine reports and more.
  - Access to immunization news, Tennessee immunization regulations, VFC program forms, VFC policies and trainings.
- To register for TennIIS and learn more about the program, visit <https://www.TennesseeIIS.gov/tnsiis/>. The process can easily be completed within a week.

## Electronic Data Exchange and Meaningful Use

Eligible Professionals (EPs), Eligible Hospitals (EHs) and vendors seeking to participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, and who are pursuing progressive stages of meaningful use, can exchange data with the state of Tennessee through TennIIS.

Electronic data exchange may be achieved using any of the following methods:

1. **Submission only (VXU) messages:** Submission only connections meet “meaningful use” minimum requirements and update TennIIS with immunizations given in the practice; however, the provider must access the patient record in TennIIS to see doses given in any other site that submits data to TennIIS.
2. **Bidirectional messaging (VXQ and VXU):** Bidirectional messaging updates TennIIS and uploads vaccine information from other sources into the provider’s patient record, so clinic employees will not need to login to TennIIS to check for records of shots given elsewhere.

Note: VXQ and VXU are specific types of HL7 standard message formats that TennIIS can accept from EHR systems. TennIIS is currently capable of establishing electronic data exchange using HL7 version 2.3.1 (VXU and VXQ) and HL7 2.5.1 (VXU) standard messages in accordance with CDC implementation guide HL7 2.3.1, version 2.2 (June 2006) and CDC implementation guide HL7 2.5.1, release 1.5 (November 2014).

#### **Transport Options:**

- **Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) connection:** Providers may establish an EDI connection to exchange immunization data with TennIIS. To begin the process all interested providers should register at <https://twis.tn.gov/twisprod/RegisterMU/MUregistration.asp>. This includes registration of intent for stage 2 Meaningful Use.
- **Secure File Transport (SFTP)** can be used to electronically exchange batched immunization messages.
- **Web Services:** Current implementation of Web Services supports Asynchronous communication and is implemented by Basic Authentication over SSL. For copies of the WSDL please send an email request to [TennIIS.MU@tn.gov](mailto:TennIIS.MU@tn.gov).
- **Direct secure email:** Providers who have an EMR with Direct capability and/or who are connected to a certified Health Information Service Provider (HISP) can attach or insert HL7 messages into a Direct secure e-mail. The Direct secure e-mail will be routed through the state HISP to TennIIS and acknowledgement messages routed back to the sender. Note that the HISP has to be an EHNAC/Direct Trust accredited HISP ([www.directtrust.org](http://www.directtrust.org)).
- **Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs):** Facilities may elect to establish electronic data connections through a HIE or a RHIO, e.g. The East Tennessee Health Information Network (eTHIN), in Tennessee can connect with TennIIS. Please contact the HIE or RHIO in your region for additional information

Note: The time until live data exchange varies and depends upon the quality and speed of data exchange testing. EPs/EHs or vendors seeking to establish a connection with TennIIS using either method listed above should contact the TennIIS team for additional information (1-800-404-3006 or [TennIIS.MU@tn.gov](mailto:TennIIS.MU@tn.gov)) to obtain technical specifications and a data test plans.