



NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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Office of the Superintendent

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## Massachusetts Immunization Information System

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to inform you that our school district is now participating in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). The MIIS is the new statewide, electronic record-keeping system (or registry) that keeps track of all immunizations (shots). This new system will help us keep complete and maintain accurate records of the shots that your children get from any doctor or healthcare provider in Massachusetts. It was developed by the Immunization Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). The School Nurses will use the MIIS to view the immunization histories of our students to comply with state immunization regulations and complete mandated DPH reports. ***Until all immunizations are in the MIIS, please continue to provide your school nurse with yearly updated copies of your child's physical and immunization status.***

The MIIS will allow us to:

- keep all your important immunization information together in one place for you and all your healthcare providers;
- know which shots you and your children are due for and when;
- easily send reminders to you about your and your children's upcoming immunizations to help you in scheduling your next visit; and
- quickly print out the forms your children need for school and camp to save you time each fall and summer.

Immunization registries like the MIIS help healthcare providers make sure that everyone is up-to-date on their immunizations to keep us all healthy and prevent the spread of harmful disease. The system has been created according to state law, which requires that healthcare providers who give immunizations report them to the MIIS. All information in the MIIS is kept confidential. You may choose to limit the providers who may see your or your child's shot records in the MIIS. However, if you do choose to limit who can view your/your child's shot history, we may be unable to give you a complete and accurate record of your child's shots. This means you must continue to keep track of this information on your own.



If you choose to opt out of allowing the school nurse to view your child's immunization history on the MIIS you must notify Cathy Riccio, Supervisor of Health Services, in writing.

A fact sheet of the MIIS is attached for your review. Your child's physician is also happy to answer your questions about the MIIS or you may also visit the MIIS website at [www.mass.gov/dph/miis](http://www.mass.gov/dph/miis), or contact the Massachusetts Immunization Program directly at 617-983-6800 or 888-658-2850. On behalf of the school nurses, we look forward to working with you to create happy healthy students!

Sincerely,

Cathy J. Riccio BSN, MS, MSN  
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Introducing the  
Massachusetts Immunization Information System

# MIIS

## Fact Sheet for Parents and Patients



**T**he MIIS is a new statewide system to keep track of immunization records for you and your family. These records list the vaccinations (shots) you and your children get to protect against measles, chickenpox, tetanus, and other diseases. The goal is to make sure that everyone in Massachusetts is up-to-date with their shots and that your records are available when you need them – such as when your child enters school, when you need emergency medical help, or when you change healthcare providers.

### What is the MIIS?

- A computerized system that collects and stores basic immunization information for people who live in Massachusetts.
- A secure and confidential system, as required by Massachusetts law.
- A system that is available for people of all ages, not just children.

### How will it help me?

The MIIS:

- Helps you and your family get the best care wherever you go for your healthcare.
- Makes sure that you and your children don't miss any shots or get too many.
- Can print a record for you or your children when you need it – if you move, if your doctor retires, or when your child starts school or camp.

### Why is this important?

As you know, the schedule of shots needed to keep healthy can be very complicated. The MIIS:

- Helps your healthcare provider keep track of which shots are due and when they should be given.
- Keeps all your immunization records together for you, your family, and your healthcare provider.
- Provides proof of vaccination for your children.
- Helps prevent outbreaks of disease like measles and the flu in your community.
- Keeps shot records safe during natural disasters such as flooding or hurricanes.



### **What information is kept in the MIIS?**

- A list of shots that you or your children have received as well as any that you or your children get in the future.
- Information needed for safe and accurate immunization of each patient, such as:
  - » Full name and birth date.
  - » Gender (male or female).
  - » Mother's maiden name (for children).
  - » Address and phone number.
  - » Provider office where each shot is given.

### **How does this information get into the system?**

- Information about children is added when a child is born or when a child gets his or her first shots.
- Your healthcare provider can add your records or your family's records if they are not already in the MIIS.

### **Who has access to my records?**

- The Department of Public Health (DPH) uses modern technology to make sure that all information entered into the MIIS is kept secure and confidential.
- The information in the MIIS is only available to:
  - » Healthcare providers or others ensuring appropriate immunization, as authorized by DPH.
  - » Schools.
  - » Local boards of health.
  - » DPH, including the WIC program, and other state agencies or programs that provide education and outreach about vaccines to their clients.
  - » Studies specially approved by the Commissioner of Public Health which meet strict legal safeguards.

### **What if I don't want my information shared?**

- You have the right to limit who can see your information.
- To limit who can see your information, you need to fill out the 'Objection or Withdrawal of Objection to Data Sharing' form which you can get from your healthcare provider.
- If you decide to limit who can see your information, your current healthcare provider will be able to see the shots they have given to you or your children, but may not be able to see your complete immunization history.
- If you decide to limit who can see your information, you will not have access to all of the benefits of the MIIS, like sharing your immunization records with schools and emergency rooms, and a complete record of shots in a single place.
- You can change your mind (decide to share or not share your information) at any time.

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#### **How can I get more information?**

Please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/dph/miis](http://www.mass.gov/dph/miis), contact the Massachusetts Immunization Program directly at 617-983-6800 or 888-658-2850, or ask your healthcare provider for more information.