

Department of Veterans Affairs: Progress with Veterans Health Administration (VHA) immunization exchange using IZ Gateway

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VHA Immunization Reporting

Prior to 2022, VA had no enterprise-wide, electronic mechanism to *report immunization data to* or to *query data from* state/jurisdictional immunization information systems (IIS).

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgency of integrating VA data with these registries:

- Other federal agencies, Congress, and state/local jurisdictions requested that VA share immunization data to coordinate public health action.
- Many states have laws mandating COVID-19 immunization reporting to the state registry.
- Data exchange between VA and IIS will ensure timely immunizations, consolidation of records, and improved provider efficiency and patient safety.

Goal

Deploy a VA-wide solution with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for bidirectional **immunization data exchange** with **state/jurisdiction** immunization information systems (IIS's) via the CDC's Immunization **(IZ) Gateway** using a centralized automated infrastructure.



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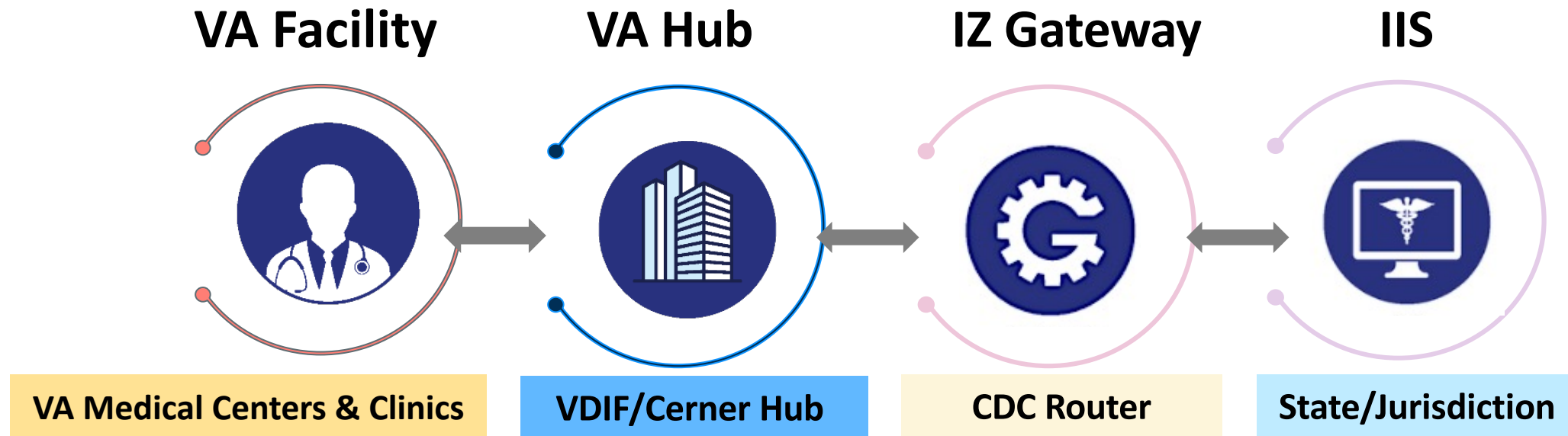
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VHA IZ Gateway Immunization Information Exchange

- Provides a national automated solution and avoids multiple, individual, point-to-point connections
- Seamless integration and data exchange of immunization information between VA, IZ Gateway and state/jurisdiction IIS.
- Both VHA EHR Systems integrating with IZ Gateway:
 - VistA - Legacy EHR
 - Oracle/Cerner Millennium



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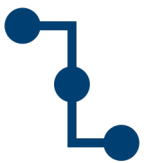
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Steps for Immunization Exchange with VHA



Step 1: State Onboarding, Readiness and Testing

- Signed IZ Gateway Multijurisdictional Provider-Jurisdiction agreement (PJA) and CDC Data Use Agreement
- Meets technical requirements (HL7 standard, IZ Gateway connection testing)
- Jurisdiction scheduled for VA testing and deployment; KICKOFF call



Step 2: VHA Automated Reporting immunizations to IIS

- Technical development addressing state specific nuances
- Test and validate connections and data exchange using 10 test patients (~2 hours live, ~1 week to review)
- Go-live reporting of immunizations to state IIS (*initial release in May 2022*)



Step 3: VHA acquiring immunization data from IIS (Querying)

- Technical development complete; patient matching, deduplication algorithms
- Test and validate with 5-6 test patients (offline, ~1-2 weeks)
- Go-live of immunizations query; integrated directly into EHR for provider to view (*initial release June 2023*)



VHA IZ Gateway Immunization Project Status

Live with Automated Query and Reporting

37

Live with Reporting (Query scheduled)

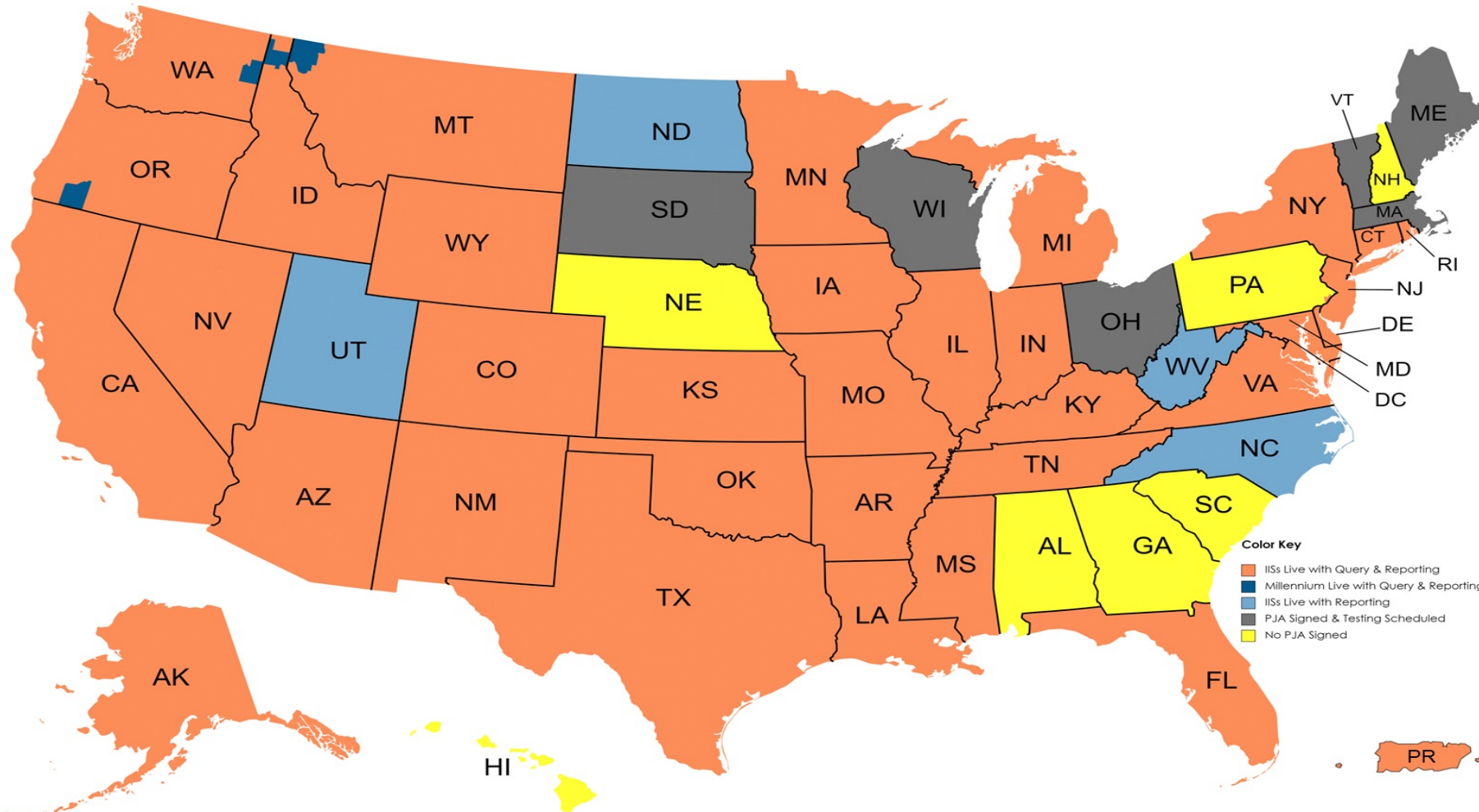
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Await Testing and Go-live

6

Await Agreements

7



**Total Number of Vaccinations
sent to IISs via Automated
REPORTING:
> 2,845,143**

**Total Number of Vaccinations
RECEIVED from IIS QUERY:
>1,078,409
for >240,853 unique
Veterans**

Data as of 8/14/23



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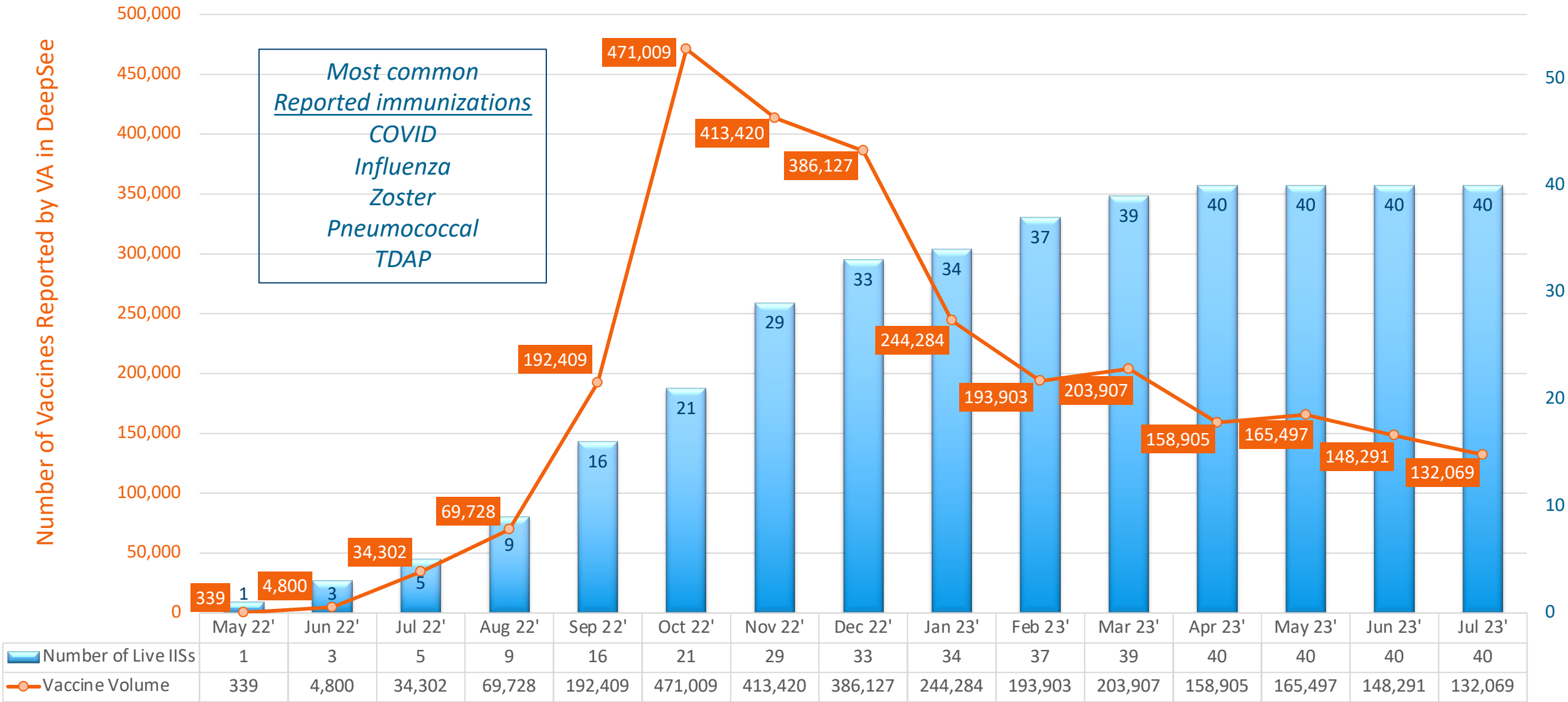
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Immunizations Reported by VA via IZ Gateway per Month in 2022 & 2023

Number of Vaccines Reported by VA in DeepSee



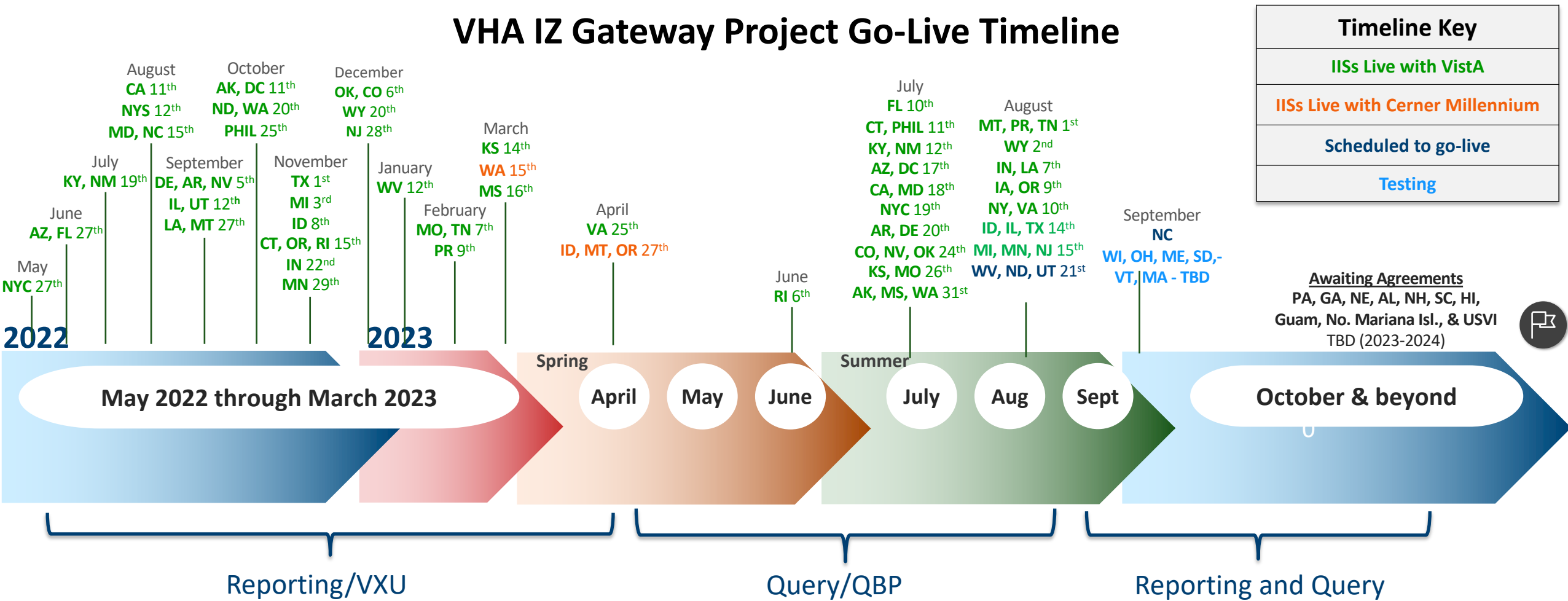
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VHA IZ Gateway Project Go-Live Timeline



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Questions

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