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

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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.
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.
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

VA Facility → VA Hub → IZ Gateway → IIS

VA Medical Centers & Clinics → VDIF/Cerner Hub → CDC Router → State/Jurisdiction
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*)
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of Live IISs</th>
<th>Vaccine Volume</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 22'</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 22'</td>
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<td>Jul 22'</td>
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</table>

**Most common Reported immunizations**

- COVID
- Influenza
- Zoster
- Pneumococcal
- TDAP
VHA IZ Gateway Project Go-Live Timeline

May 2022 through March 2023

2022

2023

Spring

April

May

June

Summer

July

Aug

Sept

October & beyond

Reporting/VXU

Query/QBP

Reporting and Query

Timeline Key

IISs Live with VistA

IISs Live with Cerner Millennium

Scheduled to go-live

Testing

Awaiting Agreements

PA, GA, NE, AL, NH, SC, HI,
Guam, No. Mariana Isl., & USVI
TBD (2023-2024)

July

FL 10th

CT, PHIL 11th

KY, NM 12th

AZ, DC 17th

CA, MD 18th

NYC 19th

AR, DE 20th

CO, NV, OK 24th

KS, MO 26th

AK, MS, WA 31st

August

MT, PR, TN 1st

NY, VA 10th

ID, IL, TX 14th

MI, MN, NJ 15th

VV, ND, UT 21st

September

NC

WI, OH, ME, SD-
VT, IMA - TBD

June

RI 6th

January

WV 12th

February

MO, TN 7th

PR 9th

April

VA 25th

ID, MT, OR 27th

May

27th

June

AZ, FL 27th

July

CA 11th

NYS 12th

MD, NC 15th

August

AK, DC 11th

ND, WA 20th

PHIL 25th

October

OK, CO 6th

WY 20th

NJ 28th

November

TX 1st

MI 3rd

ID 8th

CT, OR, RI 15th

IN 22nd

MN 29th

December

KS 14th

WA 15th

MS 16th

Timeline Key

IIS Live with Cerner Millennium

Scheduled to go-live

Testing

Awaiting Agreements

PA, GA, NE, AL, NH, SC, HI,
Guam, No. Mariana Isl., & USVI
TBD (2023-2024)
Questions

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