



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH & WELFARE**

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IDAHO IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM  
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Dear Vaccine Provider,

During the last legislative session, the Idaho Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS) statute (Idaho Statute Title 39, Chapter 48, 39-4803) underwent a review, and it was determined that we must make changes to the way we manage data about individuals who have opted-out of participation in IRIS. **This may require some action on your part.**

IRIS is a voluntary, "opt-out" registry, meaning that health care providers can enter protected health information into the system without written patient consent, until they are told not to by the patient or patient's parent/legal guardian. Patient data is entered into IRIS both via electronic data exchange and through manual data entry. Patients 18 years of age or older may request to have their information removed at any time, and legal guardians or parents of minors may request to have information about their children removed.

In order to comply with Idaho Code, a patient (or parent/legal guardian) must opt-out of IRIS through the Idaho Immunization Program. Going forward, patients can request either of the following actions:

1. Removal of all **immunization** related information and retention of non-immunization (demographic) information. This allows IRIS to use the retained demographic information to "block" immunization information for the patient from being inadvertently added back in. The retained information in IRIS is not viewable, but is enough to generate a system message alerting the provider office that the patient has opted out of IRIS.
2. Removal of all **immunization** and **non-immunization** information. Upon receipt of a deletion request of this type, the Idaho Immunization Program deletes **all** information in IRIS related to the individual opting out. IRIS does not retain any information on that individual and therefore the system cannot alert providers that the patient has opted out. It then becomes the responsibility of the patient or patient's parent/legal guardian to inform health care providers if they do not want data entered into IRIS.

While the second option (deletion of immunization and non-immunization data) creates additional responsibilities for both patients and medical providers in Idaho, this option *must* be made available to patients to meet the requirements of Idaho Code 39-4803(4)(a).

Some of your patients might inform you that they have opted out of IRIS and that they do not want your practice to enter their immunizations records into the system. Your office needs to establish a policy for how these requests will be recorded and handled.

Regardless of which option they choose, patients must still opt out through the Idaho Immunization Program. If a patient or parent/legal guardian requests removal of information from IRIS, then please refer them to the Idaho Immunization Program at 208-334-5931 or online at [www.immunizeidaho.com](http://www.immunizeidaho.com).

The enclosed "Q and A" document outlines some questions your office might have regarding how the new process works as well as accounting for vaccine administered to patients who have opted out of IRIS. Please feel free to contact our office by telephone at 208-334-5931 or via email at [IIP@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:IIP@dhw.idaho.gov).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Baker, IIS Manager  
Idaho Immunization Program

Enclosures:  
Q and A Document