

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is ALERT IIS?

Oregon Immunization Program's (OIP) ALERT Immunization Information System, or ALERT IIS, is a computerized statewide immunization information system or registry. ALERT IIS collects immunization data from both the public and private health care sectors and combines it into one complete record for individuals in Oregon. This helps health care providers, parents and individuals to keep track of immunization status, even if those immunizations were given by more than one provider.

How is ALERT IIS different from the system already in use?

In 2010, OIP combined the ALERT statewide registry and IRIS clinical records system into one new web-based system that offers access to even more data and tools that users can access from their desktops. ALERT IIS is built on an updated, robust platform that has the capacity to process greater data volumes and provide new user features such as more seamless electronic transfer options, entering administered or historical shots, updating demographic or vaccine information, and running in-house reports, reminders and recall letters.

How will ALERT IIS help my clinic?

- ALERT IIS will allow you and your staff to know which immunizations a new patient has received.
- The ALERT IIS real-time forecast shows what shots are due and past due, as well as minimum and recommended spacing between vaccines.
- Because schools and child care centers can also access ALERT IIS, it will save valuable time in your clinic by avoiding record requests.
- Clinics enrolled with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program will be able to more easily achieve federal accountability standards.
- ALERT IIS also allows clinics to manage their vaccine inventory with automatic functions to credit and debit the inventory, making vaccine management more efficient and preventing over- or under-stocking.
- ALERT IIS will have expanded capacity for interfacing with electronic media record systems.

“ALERT IIS saves time and resources in our busy practice, allowing us to focus on patient care and to avoid time-consuming record requests. My clinic staff knows at-a-glance what shots have been received and, even more importantly, what shots are due that day.”

~ Jay Rosenbloom, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP, a private practitioner of pediatrics and the Oregon Pediatric Society's representative to the Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children (OPIC)

How do I sign up for ALERT IIS?

Signing up to use ALERT IIS is fast and easy. First, choose a Super User to serve as your main ALERT IIS clinic contact and manage ALERT IIS access for your clinic. Complete and return your renewal ALERT IIS Site Agreement. Arrange for staff training from a variety of training options.

How will my staff know how to use ALERT IIS?

ALERT IIS will work directly with your clinic to ensure that staff are trained and the system works with yours. ALERT IIS training is available at your convenience in many formats: online, webinars and in person. There is also an ALERT IIS Help Desk available for assistance: 1-800-980-9431 or ALERTIIS@state.or.us.

How will my clinic submit data to ALERT IIS?

There are two primary ways to submit data to ALERT IIS. If your clinic has an electronic medical record or billing system, ALERT IIS can work with you to see if electronic transfer is a workable option. Your clinic can also submit data directly into the system through the simple user interface.

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Will the electronic files my clinic currently submits still be accepted?

During the initial transition, ALERT will continue to accept the files that provider sites are currently submitting. During the fall of 2010, ALERT will be reaching out to sites to encourage them to modify their file formats to utilize more of the new ALERT IIS functionality where possible (e.g., inventory, VFC accountability, etc.).

Who is responsible for loading data already in ALERT into the new system?

The ALERT IIS system will automatically import the data from existing records in the ALERT registry.

Who has access to ALERT IIS' information?

By law, only authorized users are allowed to access immunization information in ALERT IIS. Authorized users include health care providers, parents, local health departments, schools and child care facilities. Health care providers are only allowed to obtain information on their own patients. Schools and child care facilities may only access records on their enrollees. Authorized users can access immunization records via the Web at www.alertiis.org or by calling the ALERT IIS Help Desk. Individuals, parents and guardians may also obtain their own or their child's immunization information by calling the ALERT IIS Help Desk at 1-800-980-9431. The only people who have access to this information are those who need it.

Does ALERT IIS have information on adults as well as children?

Initially ALERT was a childhood immunization registry, but legislation that went into effect in 2008 allowed ALERT IIS to expand into a lifespan registry. Today, ALERT IIS has a growing proportion of adult data.

Is ALERT IIS mandatory?

Submission to ALERT IIS is voluntary for private clinics, but ALERT IIS has several benefits to health care providers. Currently, about 92 percent of private clinics in Oregon submit data to ALERT and 100 percent of public clinics participate in the system. With all private and public providers contributing data to ALERT IIS, the system will function at its best, giving both providers and parents the valuable information they need. Private providers who participate fully can achieve federal and state accountability requirements for the VFC Program.

What is being done to protect patients' confidentiality?

The Oregon Immunization Program developed ALERT IIS to meet HIPAA privacy and security requirements. Only providers of immunizations will be able to directly access a child's immunization records. Parents or guardians may obtain a child's immunization records from their physician, public health department or by requesting the record from the ALERT IIS Help Desk. Oregon law allows for the sharing of immunization records with schools. For a school to gain access to a child's immunization record, the school must sign a User Agreement and agree to handle all immunization information according to statutory guidelines. All access to the system and every transaction is recorded and such records will be reviewed and audited.

More Questions?

To find out more about ALERT IIS, contact the ALERT IIS Help Desk,
1-800-980-9431 • alertiis@state.or.us • www.alertiis.org