



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

Guidance Issued Pursuant to the Order of the Commissioner of Public Health Regarding Access to Certain Immunization Information for Insurance Carriers and MassHealth

This guidance is issued pursuant to and implements the February 9, 2021 Order of the Commissioner of Public Health Regarding Access to Certain Immunization Information for Insurance Carriers and MassHealth (Order).

Background

The Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) is the Department's system of record for information concerning all immunizations administered in the Commonwealth and reported to the Department pursuant to G.L. c. 111 §24M and 105 CMR 222.

The Order allows the Department of Public Health (Department) to release records of COVID-19 vaccinations from the MIIS (MIIS Information) to Carriers for the purpose of those Carriers' Authorized COVID-19 Activities. For the purposes of the Order and this guidance Carriers are commercial health insurers, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Inc., health maintenance organizations, and MassHealth.

The Order requires that the Department issue, and the Carriers follow this guidance with regard to the MIIS Information.

Carriers' Authorized COVID-19 Activities

Pursuant to the Order and this guidance, Carriers are authorized to utilize MIIS Information for Authorized COVID-19 Activities. Those Authorized COVID-19 Activities are those activities that Carriers take to promote increased uptake of COVID-19 vaccination, and to educate their members about: the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination, eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination pursuant to [the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Plan](#), where and how to access COVID-19 vaccination, and reminders and instructions for obtaining any required second dose of the vaccine.

In order to facilitate the release of COVID-19 MIIS data from the Department to Carriers, Carriers must submit HL7 query by parameter (QBP) messages and accept responses (RSP) following HL7 2.5.1 message transport specifications. In the event of a match with a Carrier's member, the Carrier will receive the member's COVID-19 vaccination and demographics of

their MIIS record. This process will be more fully described in technical guidance issued by the Department. Pursuant to the Order, Carriers are only authorized to utilize the member's COVID-19 MIIS Information for the Authorized COVID-19 Activities.

Required Confidentiality and Security Provisions

Carriers must ensure the confidentiality and security of the MIIS Information.

All Carriers will be required to execute and abide by the terms of the Carrier Site Registration Agreement (COVID-19 Emergency).

Technical Specifications

Carriers shall follow a specified query schedule and technical requirements to be issued by the Department. Such technical requirements will be provided by the Department in: 1) Transport Instructions for SOAP Web Services; 2) MIIS Query and Response (QBP/RSP) HL7 Specifications Version 1; 3) MIISCDCServiceUpdated.zip – WSDL Web Services Description Language