

Section 19a-7h-1 to 19a-7h-5

Reporting Information to and Releasing Information from the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System**19a-7h-1. Definitions**

As used in Sections 19a-7h-1 to 19a-7h-5, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) "Connecticut electronic birth registry system" means the department's computer database of all birth data from electronic transmission of birth information data by hospitals to the department as authorized by section 7-48 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (2) "Department" means the Connecticut Department of Public Health.
- (3) "Health care provider" means "health care provider" as defined in section 19a-7h of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (4) "Immunization registry" means the department's ongoing computer-based registry of children who have not yet begun first grade of school and their complete immunization history as authorized by section 19a-7h of the Connecticut General Statutes.
(Added effective May 1, 2000.)

19a-7h-2. Registration

- (a) The administrator of the Connecticut electronic birth registry system shall report identifying and locating information and, to the extent the information is contained in it, any information on in-hospital newborn vaccination, non-household contact persons, and designated well child care provider, to the immunization registry on all children born on or after January 1, 1999 in Connecticut hospitals to residents of Connecticut.

The administrator of the Connecticut electronic birth registry system shall submit an electronic data file to the immunization registry administrator within 7 days of the information being received at the department. Identifying and locating information shall be:

- (1) the infant's name, birthdate, hospital of birth, birth certificate number, birth document control number, and address, and, if available, social security number;
 - (2) the infant's mother's name, birthdate, and address; and
 - (3) the infant's father's name, birthdate and address.
- (b) Health care providers who vaccinate or, when appropriate, provide an exemption from vaccination to any child who resides in Connecticut, was born out-of-state on or after January 1, 1999, and is not yet enrolled in the first grade, shall report registration information on that child to the immunization registry, on a form provided by the immunization registry, within fourteen days of providing the initial in-state vaccination or permanent vaccination exemption to that child. Registration information shall be:
 - (1) the child's name, birthdate, state of birth, current address, telephone number, and, if available, social security number;
 - (2) the child's parent(s)'s or legal guardian(s)'s name(s), date(s) of birth, current

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- address, telephone number; and
- (3) the name, work address and work telephone number of the child's primary well child care provider.
- (c) Any health care provider who vaccinates any child who resides in Connecticut and was born on or after October 1, 1994, may report any known change of identifying or locating information on that child each time a change becomes known to that health care provider.
- (Added effective May 1, 2000.)

19a-7h-3. Reporting of vaccination by health care providers

- (a) Health care providers giving vaccinations in an outpatient setting shall report to the immunization registry information on each vaccination given to a child born on or after January 1, 1999 and who currently resides in Connecticut, or when appropriate, permanent exemptions from administration of each vaccine dose within 14 days of giving to or permanently exempting a child from any dose of vaccine. Health care providers shall make similar reports at the request of the immunization registry administrator on children enrolled in the immunization registry including those born before January 1, 1999. Reports shall be made in a written or an electronic format, approved by the commissioner. The reports shall include:
- (1) the vaccinated or exempted child's name and date of birth and, if the report made in electronic format, other unique identifiers approved by the commissioner;
 - (2) the name of each vaccination given or for permanent exemption, the name of each vaccine exempted and whether the exemption is for medical reasons, religious reasons, or because the child has laboratory confirmation of natural infection with the infecting agent against which the exempted vaccine would provide protection;
 - (3) the date the vaccine was administered or permanently exempted; and
 - (4) the name of the health care provider who ordered the dose be given or in the case of a permanent exemption, issued a medical exemption or provided evidence of laboratory confirmation of natural infection.
- (b) In the case of a hospital neonatal care unit, the chief executive officer of the hospital shall designate a hospital employee to be responsible for reporting any vaccination given to a newborn child before the newborn child is discharged from the hospital inpatient setting. Reports shall be made within fourteen days of administering a vaccination. Where reports can be made through the Connecticut electronic birth registry system together with the birth registration information, vaccination may be reported through that system. Where that is not possible, reports shall be made in a written or an electronic format approved by the commissioner. A biweekly listing of births and vaccination status of each newborn child may be substituted for individual vaccination reports. The reports shall include:

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- (1) the vaccinated child's name, date of birth and hospital of birth;
 - (2) the biologic mother's name;
 - (3) the name of each vaccination given;
 - (4) the date the vaccine was administered.
- (c) When requested by the immunization registry to provide immunization information on a named child, the current or former health care provider of any such child enrolled in the immunization registry shall provide to the immunization registry that child's immunization history and identifying information as required in subsection (a) of this section within fourteen days of such request.
- (Added effective May 1, 2000.)

19a-7h-4. Release of information by the immunization registry

- (a) Health care providers intending to administer vaccines to a child who need to know a child's immunization history for purposes of determining whether additional doses of vaccine are needed and health care providers who need to officially document a child's immunization status to meet state day care or school immunization entry requirements and who have signed a written statement on a form provided by the department stating that they have read section 19a-7h of the Connecticut General Statutes and sections 19a-7h-1 through 19a-7h-5 inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and will comply with them shall be allowed to obtain information from the immunization registry about the immunization status of children in it. Health care providers shall provide the immunization registry with sufficient identifying information to identify an individual child and shall be provided a complete record of that child's immunization status, including name and date of each vaccine dose given or permanently exempted, and name and birthdate of the child. The immunization registry shall provide the immunization record either via a secure computer connection at the time of the query, via fax to a telephone number given by the health care provider, via telephone followed by mailing or faxing of a written or printed copy, by written or printed copy, or by other such methods determined by the commissioner to assure that the report is being made to a health care provider who has agreed in writing to comply with Connecticut General Statutes section 19a-7h and sections 19a-7h-1 through 19a-7h-5 inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Such written statements shall be renewed every twenty-four months and shall be kept on file for seven years in the immunization program of the department.
- (b) Parents or guardians of a child may request and obtain a written or printed copy of their child's immunization record directly from the immunization registry central office.
- (1) The copy provided shall include the child's name, date of birth, and the name and date of each vaccine dose given or exempted. If a vaccine is permanently exempted, the copy shall state whether the exemption is because the child already has evidence of immunity or because the child has a contraindication to vaccination, which may be either medical or religious as specified in section 19a-

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7h-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and is still thought to be susceptible to the infectious agent against which the exempted vaccination is meant to protect. It shall not have additional identifying information, including current or past addresses of the child. The copy shall contain a statement that the record was provided by the Connecticut State Immunization Registry and can be used as an official immunization record for licensed day care and school entry purposes.

- (2) If a parent or guardian of the child directly requests a copy of the immunization record from the immunization registry, such request shall be made in person or by mail, and photographic identification shall be presented, if available. Should a photographic identification be unavailable, originals or photocopies of any two of the following documents may be substituted for it:
 - (A) social security card;
 - (B) written verification of identity from employer;
 - (C) current automobile registration;
 - (D) current copy of utility bill showing name and address;
 - (E) current checking account deposit slip stating name and address;
 - (F) current voter registration card.

- (c) Local directors of health who have signed a written statement on a form provided by the department that they have read section 19a-7h of the Connecticut General Statutes and sections 19a-7h-1 through 19a-7h-5 inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and will comply with them, shall have full access to all necessary registration and immunization information in the immunization registry for all children who are registered as residing in their health jurisdiction to enable them to determine which children are overdue for scheduled immunizations and to enable them to provide outreach by mail, telephone or on-site visits after first conferring with the child's last known primary care provider.
 - (1) The immunization registry shall provide the immunization records either by computer connection or written or printed copy.
 - (2) At the health director's discretion, outreach workers working on behalf of the local health department to improve immunization levels may be given sufficient information to identify and locate individual children who are behind on immunization and to inform their parents or guardians which generic vaccines are still needed.

Sec. 4. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 19a-7h of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2014):

(b) For purposes of this section, "health care provider" means a person who has direct or supervisory responsibility for the delivery of immunization including licensed physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician assistants and nurses. Each health care provider who

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has provided health care to a child listed in the registry shall report to the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, sufficient information to identify the child and the name and date of each vaccine dose given to that child or when appropriate, contraindications or exemptions to administration of each vaccine dose. Reports shall be made by such means determined by the commissioner to result in timely reporting. Each health care provider intending to administer vaccines to any child listed on the registry and each parent or guardian of such child shall be provided current information as contained in the registry on the immunization status of the child for the purposes of determining whether additional doses of recommended routine childhood immunizations are needed, or to officially document immunization status to meet state day care or school immunization entry requirements pursuant to sections 10-204a, 19a-79 and 19a-87b and regulations adopted thereunder. Each director of health of any town, city or health district and each school nurse who is required to verify the immunization status for children enrolled in prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, at a public or private school in any town, city or school district pursuant to section 10-204a shall be provided with sufficient information on the children who live in his or her jurisdiction and who are listed on the registry to enable determination of which children are overdue for scheduled immunizations and to enable provision of outreach to assist in getting each such child vaccinated.

(c) Except as specified in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, all personal information including vaccination status and dates of vaccination of individuals shall be confidential pursuant to section 19a-25 and shall not be further disclosed without the authorization of the child or the child's legal guardian. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter 54, to specify how information on vaccinations or exemptions from vaccination is reported in a timely manner to the registry, how information on the registry is made available to health care providers, parents or guardians, directors of health, and school nurses, how parents or guardians may decline their child's enrollment in the registry, and to otherwise implement the provisions of this section.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/amd/H/2014HB-05537-R00HA-AMD.htm>

19a-7h-5. Refusing participation in the immunization registry

The parent or guardian of any child who is listed or eligible to be listed in the immunization registry shall receive a written informational statement from the department about the immunization registry at the time of birth or, for qualifying children who come to Connecticut after birth, at the time of their coming to the attention of the immunization registry. Such statement shall inform the parent or guardian that their child's immunization information will be reported to and maintained by the immunization registry and that they may submit a written request to the immunization registry at any time requesting that their child's immunization record no longer be maintained. Once the request is received, the immunization registry shall no longer update nor make available that child's immunization record as specified in section 19a-7h-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(Added effective May 1, 2000.)