



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders
Chief of Staff

January 16, 2008

Dear Stakeholder Organization:

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is appreciative of your valuable partnership as we implement the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), the statewide web-based immunization registry. As you are aware, Article 21, Title 6, Section 2168 of the Public Health Law (PHL) requires health care providers to report all immunizations administered to persons less than 19 years of age to the statewide registry beginning on January 1, 2008. The law also requires that immunization histories of all persons less than 19 years of age who receive vaccines be recorded in the registry. Ultimately, NYSIIS is a large public health program and our goal is to make it work for everyone to improve child health.

Draft regulations to PHL Section 2168 are enclosed. These are draft regulations and are not final. Please review the regulations and provide comments. Feel free to share this letter and the draft regulations with your membership. We are scheduling a conference call in the near future during which you may ask questions and provide additional feedback.

Implementing a statewide web-based system in every physician office is a large undertaking. NYSDOH will continue to rely on training, technical assistance and other supports for physicians and their staff to implement the system. Classroom and webinar training have begun and will continue to occur regionally across the State between January and July 2008. Additional free training options include an online tutorial and a user's manual.

Physicians and other providers will not be expected to report to the registry until after training has concluded in their particular regions of the state. Although the law provides for penalties for providers who do not participate in the registry, citations and fines are not expected to be needed to ensure full NYSIIS implementation. NYSDOH does not intend to utilize penalties for failure to report until after a full year of implementation (January 1, 2009) and then only after efforts to work with physician offices to implement the system.

For more details on the new legislation and NYSIIS, please see the letter to providers announcing the New York State Immunization Information System and a list of frequently asked questions available on the Health Provider Network (HPN) on the NYSDOH Health Commerce System at: <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/bcdc/immunization/nysiis.html> or the NYSDOH public website at http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/immunization/information_system/providers/. You may also contact NYSIIS staff at (518) 473-4437 or nysiis@health.state.ny.us with questions.

The NYSDOH looks forward to working collaboratively with stakeholder organizations such as yours. We expect it will take several years to achieve full NYSIIS implementation and welcome your ongoing participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guthrie Birkhead MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "G".

Guthrie S. Birkhead, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Public Health