

BRIEFING PAPER
Revised 05/28/15

Briefing Title: WA State Immunization Information System School Module Pilot Project

Purpose:

The purpose of the pilot project is to allow school nurses to fully use the School Module to improve immunization compliance.

Background:

The Department of Health (DOH) Office of Immunization and Child Profile (OICP) developed the WA Immunization Information System (IIS) School Module as a school immunization tracking and reporting system. We want to improve student compliance with immunization requirements and promote healthy students free from diseases prevented by vaccines.

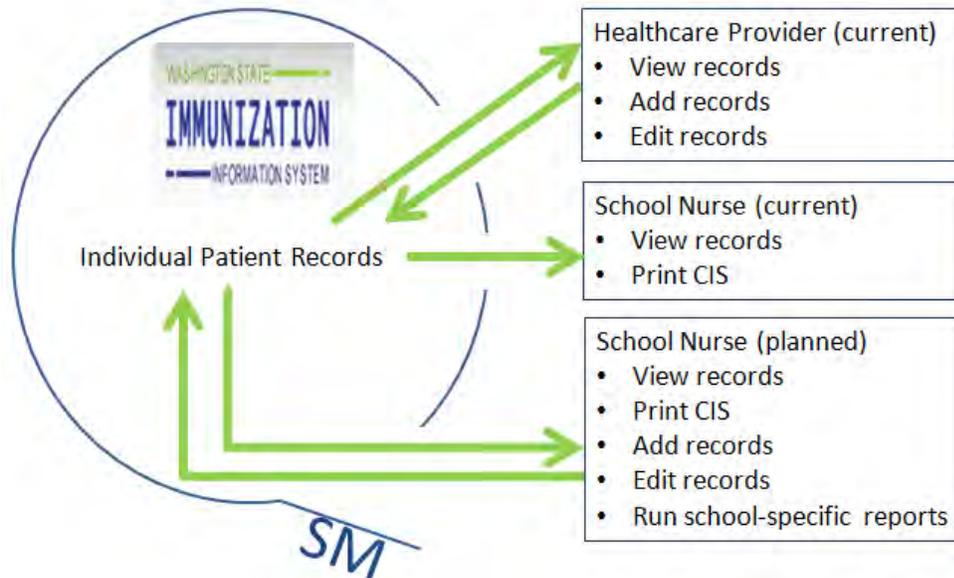
Students attending kindergarten through 12th grade in WA State must meet school entry requirements for specific vaccinations. Parents are required to submit a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) to show proof of immunization. Schools are responsible for reviewing the CIS to make sure students are fully immunized and meet state immunization requirements. Schools also have the responsibility to follow-up with and track students not in compliance with school requirements.

The School Module (SM) offers a portal into the statewide IIS currently used by healthcare providers. Schools currently access the IIS to look up immunizations that may be missing from the Student Information Systems (SIS) to help determine if students are out of compliance with the immunization requirements. Schools can also print a Certificate of Immunization Status that contains pre-printed immunization data found in the IIS.

Future use of the Module allows authorized schools to link students with a school and access immunizations already entered by healthcare providers rather than spending many hours entering student immunizations in a school specific student information system. School staff can print student-specific reports and letters to track required immunizations, and submit the required annual immunization status report.

A great way to understand the SM in relation to the IIS is to think of the analogy of looking through the SM window. When school personnel look through the SM window, they see school-specific information and reports.

Relationship of the School Module (SM) to the Immunization Information System (IIS) (formerly the Child Profile Immunization Registry)



Benefits of Using the School Module:

- Access to a comprehensive statewide immunization registry that contains millions of immunization records
- Reduces immunization data entry by schools since immunizations are already entered in the IIS by healthcare providers
- Saves money and staff time
- Ability to link students with a school
- Print a completed Certificate of Immunization Status
- Determine accurately why a student is out of compliance and which vaccine is needed to make the student in compliance
- Run reports showing students who are out of compliance due to missing or incomplete immunizations
- Generate personalized letters and mailing labels to remind parents about missing immunizations
- Enter missing immunizations using healthcare provider-verified records
- Reduces number of unnecessary immunizations
- Supports healthy, well-vaccinated students

Pilot Projects

DOH staff has worked with school nurses statewide for a number of years to develop the School Module to be ready for use by WA schools. We engaged a small number of school districts in a pilot project starting in January 2014 and the pilots have currently continued. The purpose of

the pilot projects is to allow school nurses to fully use the School Module to track students' immunization compliance. This includes school nurses entering provider-verified immunization records in the IIS for students missing immunizations, and helping to develop policies and procedures, instructions, and guidelines for the eventual use of the Module by all schools statewide.

During the 2014-15 school year, 3 school districts with 5 schools participated in the pilot project. These districts included: Odessa, Pomeroy, and Northshore. We plan to slowly expand use of the School Module statewide in the future.

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