

Panorama Immunization Module/ Digital Health Immunization Repository (DHIR)

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E.g., Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Digital Health Immunization Repository, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2017/02/13].

Data Notes

Background

Ontario health units monitor the immunization status of children within their jurisdiction under the terms of the Child Care and Early Years Act¹, the Immunization of School Pupils Act², and in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards 2018.³

Children must be fully immunized for mandatory childhood vaccines (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, Meningococcal disease, and varicella (for children born in 2010 or after) before and throughout attendance at school; or have a record of medical exemption or statement of conscience or religious belief on file with the local Medical Officer of Health.²

As of July 1, 2018, health care providers must report immunizations under the ISPA that are administered to children. Parents can also report records of immunizations covered by legislation and administered at a healthcare practitioner's office to public health. Public health units send out letters to parents of children in licensed child care facilities and in schools for this information and can suspend from school students who do not provide immunization information or a statement of exemption.

The DHIR (Panorama) Immunization Module

The Digital Health Immunization Repository (DHIR), also known as Panorama, Immunization module is the centralized repository of electronic immunization data in Ontario, which public health units in Ontario use to maintain and record child immunization records and exemptions.⁴

In addition to the mandatory immunizations, public health units can record other routine childhood immunizations in the DHIR, including those provided through the Grade 7 immunization program (e.g., hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae B, influenza, pneumococcal conjugate, human papillomavirus, rotavirus).

Data Structure and Specifics

Panorama contains an immunization forecaster tool that is used to validate recorded immunizations and recommends when future immunizations should be administered according to the clients age,

gender, and the publicly funded immunization schedule for Ontario. A dose is considered valid if it was given within the recommended guidelines for age at administration and the minimum interval between doses.⁵

Demographic, parent/guardian contact and school information for school-aged children is imported into DHIR from the Boards of Education, public schools and private schools using the Student Information Exchange (STIX) application.⁶ This application reconciles the student information with client records in the DHIR. The quality of demographic information in DHIR is largely dependent on the quality of this data and the import process. Frequency of imports to the DHIR may differ between health units.

Working with DHIR Immunization Data

The DHIR Immunization module includes both a data entry and reporting system. The reporting system allows users to run standardized reports that are built in to the system.

In addition to the DHIR, an application known as the Panorama Enhanced Analytic Reporting (PEAR) tool can be used to design custom reports using the data in the DHIR, and also contains additional standard reports created by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

Availability of DHIR Immunization Data

Prior to the implementation of the DHIR, immunization records were previously stored in the Immunization Records Information System (IRIS). Historical records from IRIS were migrated into the DHIR. The availability of historic immunization records in DHIR will vary across public health units, as health units had the option of choosing which immunization records they wanted migrated into Panorama (e.g. records of clients under 18 years).

Data Limitations

- Reports are based on data available at the time the report is generated. Any updates to the data will change the output of subsequent reports.
- Data quality will vary depending on the extent to which local public health units enforce the ISPA.
- Immunization information for pre-school children who are not enrolled in licensed facilities may be incomplete.

References and Resources

1. Child Care and Early Years Act - S.O. 2014, c. 11 . Available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>
2. Immunization of School Pupils Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. I.1. Available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01>
3. Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. Ontario Public Health Standards 2018. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2018. Available at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/
4. eHealth Ontario Innovation Lab. Digital Health Immunization Repository (DHIR). Available at: <https://www.innovation-lab.ca/digital-health-immunization-repository-dhir>
5. Government of Ontario. Panorama Immunization Forecaster Background version 3.1. 2015.
6. Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. STIX Release 2.6 Public Health Unit (PHU) User Guide. Version 5.8. Revised September 2017.

