

# SUCCESS STORIES

“ Parents are often overwhelmed with trying to find all the information needed for immunization reporting and remembering to bring in updates for their children. Since we are a small school with limited resources, ALERT IIS has become an invaluable resource. I can check for updates and keep our records current. ”

~ Stephanie Thorton, principal, Faithful Savior Community School

ALERT IIS, an information system that records immunizations given in the state of Oregon, is part of a long term strategy to improve immunization coverage and provider practices. ALERT IIS consolidates vaccination records from multiple providers — in both private and public sectors — to create a single immunization record for each person. About 92 percent of private clinics and all public clinics send data to ALERT IIS. Nearly all Oregon preschool children have immunizations on file with ALERT IIS. Following a 2008 legislative change allowing ALERT IIS to expand to a lifespan system, the system now has a growing volume of shot records for adults.

- More than 7,500 health care and school professionals in Oregon use ALERT IIS as part of their jobs to ensure that children are properly immunized. Currently there are more than 3 million people between the ages 0-24 with immunization records available on the secure ALERT IIS website. Quick access to immunization records through ALERT IIS has a direct effect on keeping kids in school, improving immunization practice, avoiding costly duplicate shots and helping to prevent the reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases. ALERT IIS has logged more than 28 million shots.

- The recommended schedule for immunizations is complex, and providers and parents can sometimes overestimate how well children are immunized. ALERT IIS generates monthly reports to clinics in Oregon for children under their care who are past due for immunizations. After clinic review, ALERT IIS sends letters to parents to let them know what immunizations are recommended for their child.
- ALERT IIS is an innovative public health tool for Oregon. It helps identify children at risk during disease outbreaks, monitors the effect of vaccine shortages, and examines the effect of an increasingly complex immunization schedule.
- In 2001 ALERT won a national award for “Best Use of Data to Improve Public Health” presented by Rosalynn Carter and her organization, Every Child by Two.
- In 2008, ALERT was recognized again as a Center of Excellence by the American Immunization Registry Association.
- The Oregon Immunization Program uses ALERT IIS data to create comprehensive reports about immunization practices for private and public clinics. ALERT IIS assists health plans and has a long-standing partnership with the Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP) for immunization quality improvement measures. Using ALERT IIS saves time and money and replaces expensive chart reviews.

# SUCCESS STORIES

- Oregon is one of a subset of CDC grantees nationwide that has achieved the National Health Objective of more than 95 percent of children aged less than 6 years participating in a statewide immunization registry.<sup>1</sup>
- The ALERT Immunization Registry hit a significant milestone in August 2006, reaching 1 million searches for immunization records on ALERT's secure web-based registry. Only two years later, ALERT surpassed the 2 million search mark, demonstrating its widespread and growing use among private and public clinics, schools, and child care centers throughout Oregon. And in 2010, ALERT hit the 3 million searches mark.
- During the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic, the ALERT system logged nearly a million H1N1 vaccinations in Oregon. The pandemic offered a unique opportunity for ALERT to add the records of many more adults into the system.

1 - *MMWR*<sup>TM</sup> February 12, 2010 / 59(05);133-135

“ It may be difficult to pinpoint the importance of ALERT IIS in your everyday practice until a new patient transfers into the clinic and has no record of their immunizations. If you can access their immunization record on ALERT IIS you are way ahead of the game. ”

~ Ceil Colburn R.N., B.S.N., Clackamas site manager, Metropolitan Pediatrics

- ALERT IIS helps providers meet vaccine accountability requirements for Vaccines for Children (VFC) services, and offers vaccine inventory, ordering and stock management for all users.
- Providers submitting all data to ALERT IIS are eligible for free continuous quality improvement services known as AFIX, where data is used to assess clinic practices supported by all major national provider associations.

“ The Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network's study of early childhood immunizations delivery found that rural primary care clinicians consider ALERT IIS to be of low burden to the practices and a key component of the immunization safety net tool kit. ”

~ Lyle Fagnan, M.D., director of the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network

## More Questions?

To find out more about ALERT IIS, contact the ALERT IIS Help Desk,  
**1-800-980-9431 • [alertiis@state.or.us](mailto:alertiis@state.or.us) • [www.alertiis.org](http://www.alertiis.org)**