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A survey on approaches to COVID-19 vaccination coverage assessment in the EU/EEA

Dear Colleagues -

This survey is launched by the Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunisation programme at ECDC primarily to have an understanding on how vaccinations against COVID-19 in adults is being documented, and on the approaches used to monitor vaccination coverage in population groups targeted by vaccination.

This survey aims also to collect information on the status of implementation of immunisation information systems (IIS)/Electronic immunisation registers (EIR) in your country. A previous comprehensive survey was conducted in 2017 [\[1\]](#) and we would like to use this opportunity to collect any changes in the roll-out of IIS/EIR in your country.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the roll-out of vaccination and the requirements to document uptake at individual and population level presents an opportunity to further invest in developing electronic solutions for the monitoring of vaccination. Outcomes from this survey will also help to get an updated status of implementation at country level and discuss in collaboration with the European Commission means to best support countries in their efforts to implement immunisation registers.

The survey addresses both countries that have an IIS/EIR in operation as well as countries who are in the phase of implementing or planning implementation.

We are grateful for your reply to the survey. We have allowed for free-text to ensure you can best specify and elaborate on your answers as not all information can be captured through closed ended questions.

For the purpose of this survey the terms IIS (immunisation information systems) and EIR (electronic immunisation register) have been used interchangeably and abbreviated as IIS/EIR in the questions. a definition is to be found [here](#) (page 4).

We would appreciate if you could respond to this survey by **9 February 2021 12:00 CET**.

Results will be analysed and presented at an upcoming meeting of the NITAG collaboration to be held possibly on 18 or 19 February 2021.

If you require any further information on the survey in general, or while you are completing it, please do not hesitate to contact the ECDC VPI team at [5.1.2a](#)

We thank you in advance for your participation and for the time you will spend on it. It is expected to take approximately 20 minutes to respond according to the specific situation in your country. The summary of

this survey will be circulated by 15 February 2021 and discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the ECDC EU /EEA NITAG collaboration.

Name and email of respondent

Country

General

Please choose the option that best describes the current situation in your country regarding the availability of an IIS/EIR

- A national IIS/EIR is fully operational
- No IIS/EIR register is in operation
- There is NOT a system at national level but there are IIS/EIR at regional level
- There is an IIS/EIR register currently under development at national level
- A specific IIS/EIR was implemented **ONLY** in support of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign

Please describe major changes or developments since the last survey on IIS/EIR conducted in 2017 by ECDC including population and or geographical area covered, e-health initiative (e.g: link to health database, vaccine certificate), new properties for the users (e.g: programmatic fits, vaccination certificate ...), update of the denominators, bar code readers.

There is a separate system for NIP and for COVID-19 vaccination (last one almost ready)

PART I - Recording of COVID-19 vaccinations through an already existing IIS/EIR

(focus is exclusively on adult vaccination)

Is the IIS/EIR able to record case-based COVID-19 vaccination data (for IIS/EIR at national or subnational level, whether in place or under development)?

- Yes
- No
- Being planned

How frequently is the IIS/EIR updated?

- Real-time
- Daily
- Weekly
- Other

About the population and population groups covered by the IIS/EIR

Does the IIS/EIR covers the entire adult population e.g. regardless of age, occupation or place of residence?

- Yes
- No, some adult population groups are not included

About COVID-19 vaccination coverage

Is data from the IIS/EIR used to estimate COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the various populations groups covered?

- Yes
 No

Can data available in the IIS/EIR also allow to compute COVID-19 vaccination coverage data for the following population groups?

- Healthcare workers
 Residents of long-term care facilities
 Specific underlying condition
 Pregnant women
 Adults by age groups
 Other essential workers
 None of the above

If yes to one of the above, please indicate how the denominator is estimated? Please add as many details as possible.

The only valid denominator we have at this moment is population by age from Statistics Netherlands. We aim to collect denominators for other groups (healthcare workers, residents of long-term care facilities) but this is very challenging at this moment.

Although a IIS/EIR is available in the Netherlands not all COVID-19 vaccinations are included (yet) at this moment. Due to privacy issues it is very hard to get all data from the many different organisations that execute the vaccination into the IIS/EIR. Therefore, at this moment we are not able to calculate the coverage by age group.

What is the lowest geographical level at which COVID-19 vaccination coverage data can be computed?

- National (NUTS1 or equivalent)
 Regional (NUTS 2 or equivalent)
 District (NUTS 3 or equivalent)
 Other

Other (please specify)

municipality, postal code

Are COVID-19 vaccination coverage data available by age-cohort?

- Yes
 No

Are COVID-19 vaccination coverage data available for each dose of a specific vaccine?

- Yes
- No

How regularly is COVID-19 vaccination coverage assessed?

- Real-time
- Every 3 months
- Every 6 months
- Every 12 months
- Other

Other (please specify)

daily, please note that we report the number of first and second doses and not yet vaccination coverage. We are not yet using the system, but in the near future we will.

Are report on COVID-19 vaccination coverage made publicly available?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please share URL or location

<https://www.rivm.nl/covid-19-vaccinatie/cijfers-vaccinatieprogramma>

About COVID-19 vaccination data available in the register and linkage**Please indicate which of the following data can be retrieved for each vaccinated individual**

- Unique identifier that can be used across health records (e.g. national insurance number, national ID number...)
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Vaccine brand name
- Vaccine generic name
- Batch number
- Date(s) of administration
- Dose number
- Geographical area of residence
- Information of concomitant medical condition (e.g. chronic disease)
- Previous documented COVID-19 infection
- None of the above
- Other

Other (please specify)

Can the available data on COVID-19 vaccination be linked to the following health outcome or population registers through a unique identifier?

- Yes, with primary care registers
- Yes, with hospital registers
- Yes, with mortality registers
- Yes, with laboratory registers
- Yes, with national population registers
- No linkage possible
- Other

Other (please specify)

In theory yes but due to privacy issues such linkages are challenging in practice and need to be conducted by a trusted third party.

Has COVID-19 data recorded within IIS/EIR been used for post-licensure studies (e.g. safety, effectiveness, impact)? Or is it planned to be used? Please indicate literature or other references if possible.

It is planned to be used for such studies. No references yet.

Do you foresee that the data on COVID-19 vaccination available in the IIS/EIR to be used will have an almost real-time estimate of vaccine effectiveness?

- Yes
- No

About data access

Can the data stored in the IIS/EIR be accessed by other healthcare organisations for the purposes of continuity of care?

- Yes
- No

Can citizens access their own vaccination records stored in the IIS/EIR (e.g. through an online application or by requesting a paper extract)

- Yes
- No

Can an official vaccination certificate/proof of vaccination be issued from the IIS/EIR by citizens?

- Yes
 No

Part 4 - About vaccination certificate. Specifically for COVID-19 vaccination

On 28 January 2020, the European Commission recommendations to have an EU-wide vaccination certificate - for the purpose of patient care - was adopted by EU Member States [2]. as stated in the European Commission communication *"These guidelines aim to support the interoperability of vaccination certificates, meaning the contents of the vaccination certificates is uniform, and establish a minimum dataset for each certificate. They also set out the basis for a trust framework to ensure the authenticity and integrity of certificates, on which work will continue in the eHealth Network, including to further specify necessary data protection and security measures. The guidelines aim for a scheme that can accommodate both paper and digital means, ensuring flexibility and compatibility with existing national solutions, and a rigorous protection of personal data."*

Are official vaccination certificates currently issued to vaccinated persons?

- Yes
 No
 Not yet planning to issue certificate

If yes, how do you currently issue vaccination proofs/certificates for vaccinations?

- From the existing IIS/EIR
 On paper
 "Yellow fever" booklet
 Digital certificate independently from the existing register
 Other

Please specify

A vaccination card is given; it is not a proof of vaccination but just a confirmation such that they can remember (also the date for the second shot)

When do you issue or plan to issue official vaccination certificates/proofs of vaccination to each vaccinated individual?

- After every dose
 Only after the completion of the vaccination cycle

How do you ensure that the information contained in the certificate is valid/genuine?

In your country, what is the primary and secondary use of vaccination certificates?

The European Commission has proposed a minimal set of data for proof of vaccination as indicated in their guidance dated 27 January 2021 [2].

Please indicate if certificates issued in your country are in agreement with the minimal data set proposed.

What are the most relevant barriers to the planning/implementation of a vaccination certificate in your country?

Vaccination is a free choice.

<https://www.gezondheidsraad.nl/documenten/adviezen/2021/02/04/ethische-en-juridische-afwegingen-covid-19-vaccinatie>

Conclusions

Information or other comments you wish to share to allow a better understanding of the information provided as part of this survey.

On the question "Can citizens access their own vaccination records stored in the IIS/EIR (e.g. through an online application or by requesting a paper extract)" I answered NO but this is currently under development.

Contact

[Contact Form](#)