



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Thomas M. Miller, M.D.

State Health Officer

August 15, 2016

Dear Healthcare Providers, Principals, and School Nurses:

Subject: Certificate of Immunization (COI) for School and Child Care Center/Homes

As required for Immunization Patient Resources with Integrated Technology (ImmPRINT) data quality improvement, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is making changes regarding the COI for school and childcare centers/homes. This letter is to inform you of those changes, offer guidance for implementation, and provide a contact person for questions.

According to ADPH, Administrative Code for Immunization of School Children, 420-6-1-.02, "The Certificate of Immunization will be on a form approved by the Alabama Department of Public Health", [www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/hlth/420-6-1.pdf](http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/hlth/420-6-1.pdf). Effective immediately, the COI should be printed on any regular paper. ADPH, Immunization Division (IMM), will continue to provide the water-marked blue paper (IMM-50W) until the inventory is depleted, but will continue to supply the blank paper (IMM\_50) for medical exemptions and hand written COIs until the supply is exhausted and ImmPRINT can document the medical exemption by vaccine.

At this time, healthcare providers printing vendor-created COIs from their electronic health record (EHR) have not been approved by ADPH. There are 2 options: COI Web service or bidirectional transmission. The COI Web service has been available for several years and is in the ImmPRINT HL7 Master Guide, [http://www.adph.org/Immunization/assets/HL7\\_Master\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.adph.org/Immunization/assets/HL7_Master_Guide.pdf), Appendix 1-4. No approval process is needed with the Web service. In order to receive vendor-created COI approved by ADPH, the provider's EHR must have HL7 bi-directional interfaced with ImmPRINT. Once the interface is completed, Registry Branch will give the provider and vendor a written approval. ADPH strongly recommends all immunization providers to utilize ImmPRINT Vaccine Forecaster before each dose is administered and enter all administered doses into ImmPRINT, either by HL7 or manually entered, in a timely manner.

IMM has created a school nurse access level in ImmPRINT. Field staff is educating lead school nurses on accessing ImmPRINT, entering historical doses, and printing COIs from ImmPRINT. For school nurses, ImmPRINT is restricted to print only up-to-date COIs and the expiration date auto populates for the next school required vaccine.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement these necessary changes. With ImmPRINT as the repository for all vaccine histories in Alabama, providers can ensure timely and accurate data for decision about vaccine administered.

Thank you for decreasing vaccine-preventable diseases and increasing immunization rates for all Alabama's citizens. If you have any questions about ImmPRINT, please contact Interoperability Team at 1-800-469-4599 or [immprint@adph.state.al.us](mailto:immprint@adph.state.al.us).

Sincerely,  
Cindy Lesinger

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Lesinger".

Immunization Division Director

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