

## Vaccine database



### Addressing the vaccination information gap

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has drawn attention to a big public health challenge — the lack of a nationwide vaccine communication system. While efforts to track vaccinations have been happening since the 1970s, they have been localized efforts handled by individual states. As you would expect, there's a lot of variability in the data and systems are not well integrated.

For years, organizations like the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and state health departments have wanted to break down these silos to make this data more accessible. This is important because Americans tend to be a restless bunch. We move an average of 11.7 times per lifetime,\* often across state lines. Not to mention job changes, health coverage transitions and more. In 2019, state health departments were capturing only 60% of vaccinations for adult populations in their jurisdictions.

It's not hard to imagine the benefits of a national system:

- Providers would be able to access a patient's full vaccine history rather than rely on error-prone self-reporting.
- Parents could be certain that their children's immunizations are up to date for school enrollment and travel.
- Public health officials could tailor strategies to address disparities by geographies or by demographic group.
- Health insurers and health care provider groups could analyze their populations to understand vaccine coverage for their populations and take action to ensure compliance with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines.
- Life sciences companies could better understand vaccine disparities across physicians, patients and geographic areas.

\*U.S. Census Bureau. Calculating migration expectancy using ACS data. [census.gov/topics/population/migration/guidance/calculating-migration-expectancy.html#:~:text=Using%202007%20ACS%20data%2C%20it,one%20move%20per%20single%20year.](https://www.census.gov/topics/population/migration/guidance/calculating-migration-expectancy.html#:~:text=Using%202007%20ACS%20data%2C%20it,one%20move%20per%20single%20year.)



### Possibilities of a nationwide vaccine communication system:

- Targeted vaccine education programs
- A mobile vaccine record
- House call targeting
- An immunity passport
- Vaccine site locator
- Vaccine ordering portal

## A public-private partnership

The key to making this information more accessible is collaboration. It is only possible if federal, state and local officials, health system partners and life sciences companies work together. Optum and UnitedHealthcare® representatives are having discussions with federal and state officials to make this a reality.

The goal is to forge a public-private partnership to break down these silos so that everyone throughout the health care system can better assess the true vaccination status of children, adolescents and adults regardless of where they live or where the vaccination was received. This will allow all stakeholders to view vaccine coverage at the population level and identify factors impacting vaccination adoption.

This partnership would bring together organizations united by a common goal to share data across state lines to aggregate, report and access vaccine history, whether by payers, providers, patients, employers or government agencies.

## The value for life sciences

Currently, it can be a challenge for life sciences companies to clearly understand vaccination levels across the country. This initiative will allow vaccine developers to better understand vaccine variance at the provider, patient and geographic levels, and when combined with existing real-world data, offer a powerful tool for data analysis and future planning.

And for a select few companies, it is an opportunity to provide leadership by participating directly in this public-private partnership. Optum is actively looking for partners to be early adopters and leaders for this initiative. If this something that you would like to learn more about, please contact us.

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**To learn more, contact us.**

**Visit:** [optum.com/vaccinedatabase](https://optum.com/vaccinedatabase)

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