



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS, PATIENT ADVOCATES AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS
CALL ON LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT ROBUST VACCINE REGISTRIES FOR ADULTS IN
NYS**

[S1531](#), [Hoylman-Sigal/A7154](#), McDonald will mirror NY pediatric vaccination registries

(Albany, N.Y.) Today, members of [Let's Get Immunized NY](#) including patient and provider organizations and public health officials met with lawmakers to encourage passage of legislation this session that would establish universal vaccine reporting to the statewide and New York City vaccine registries, unless an adult patient opts out.

Similar to the existing registries for children, the proposed legislation would ensure that healthcare providers who administer vaccinations for those 19 years of age and older report the immunization to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and the New York Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). Vaccine reporting for children aged 19 and younger has been required in New York since 2008.

Insert Senator Hoylman-Sigal Quote

Assembly bill sponsor and practicing pharmacist, Assemblymember John T. McDonald III, RPh said, "I sponsor the adult vaccination registry bill because in this day and age of every changing providers, having one safe and secure place where one's vaccines are recorded makes sense and allow the patient to control who can access their record. This legislation allows patients to opt out of their vaccines being added to the registry if they choose and also helps prevent duplicate

or unnecessary vaccinations. Thank you to all who are working to advance this legislation and who support the other bills related to supporting public health efforts."

"With the COVID public health emergency just ending, now is not the time to take our foot off the gas in terms of preparing for the next pandemic," said Gus Birkhead, former Deputy Commissioner and Director of the NYS Office of Public Health . "Having a more robust vaccine registry for adult vaccinations puts New York in a better position to protect the public health in any outbreak situation---big or small."

Passing this legislation will ensure accurate and timely reporting of vaccinations for adults across the multiple providers where a New York resident may receive a vaccine. Adults will have the ability to opt out of the reporting process if they so choose.

"The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the serious health disparities that exist across our State. Vaccine registries assist local health departments with identifying gaps in vaccine access and the need for interventions aimed at community education and outreach. It also enables public health officials to better respond when a threat to public health, like an outbreak of disease, emerges, said Robert Viets, Project Director, New York State Association of County Health Officials.

"As a primary care physician, knowing a patient's vaccination history is an important tool to understand the big picture of their overall health," said Dr. Phil Kaplan, Past-President of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians and Chair of its Vaccine Subcommittee. "Kudos to the sponsors and supporters of this common sense and pro public health legislation to enable adult patients to have a better record of the vaccines they have received, when the bill passes the Senate and Assembly and Governor Hochul signs it into law."

A more robust and durable registry of adult vaccines like most states have in place will also ensure that New Yorkers don't receive a vaccine more than once, helping to prevent unnecessary, over-vaccination.

"Patients who are dealing with serious or chronic illnesses have a lot to keep track of day to day," said Michael Sesslerman, Health Systems Manager, State and Primary Care at American Cancer Society and Member of the State HPV Coalition. "Helping keep track of what vaccines they have received and what they are due to receive is a positive step in preventative healthcare."

Importantly, the advocates also noted that both the NYSIIS and CIR registries are not publicly available and are only accessible by authorized individuals like health providers and the health department.

Let's Get Immunized NY is calling for passage of [S1531/A7154](#) before the legislature leave Albany in June.

About Let's Get Immunized NY:

[Let's Get Immunized NY](#) has over 60 diverse members including social justice organizations, educational and parent-focused groups, business advocates, agriculture and health care provider and public health organizations. LGINY strives to provide reliable and trustworthy information on immunization and encourage New Yorkers to get recommended vaccines. Additionally, we advocate for policies that protect and improve access to immunization, increase awareness of the public health benefits of vaccination, and address health disparities with vaccine access, especially in medically underserved areas and communities with low immunization rates.

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