

**Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS)**

**CT Department of Public Health Immunization Program**

**410 Capitol Avenue MS #11 MUN Hartford, CT 06134-0308 Tel: 860-509-7929 Fax: 860-509-8370**

June 23, 2011

Dear Provider:

As you know, Connecticut Law requires that each month, providers pull immunization histories on children who have recently turned 7 and 19 months old and send this information to CIRTS. If they are late, CIRTS has served as a valuable reminder/recall and outreach tool for you to ensure that the children are brought back to compliance with the recommended immunization schedule.

Recently, you have expressed some concerns that the release of this information to CIRTS may place you in non-compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 19a-7h-2 (b) (c), the requested information is required to be provided to the Department of Public Health.

With this in mind, allow me to inform you that: **Connecticut General Statute 52-146 o (b) (1) authorizes the release of these records to the Department of Public Health without the patient's consent. Additionally, the Federal Privacy Regulations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), also authorizes you, as a provider to release this information without authorization, consent, release, or opportunity to object by the patient, as information (i) required by law to be disclosed [HIPAA Privacy regulation 42 CFR~ 164.512 (a)], and (ii) as part of the Department's public health activities [ HIPAA Privacy regulation 42 CFR sec. 164.512 (b) ].The requested information is what is minimally necessary to achieve the purpose of the disclosure, and you may rely upon this representation in releasing the requested information, pursuant to 42 CFR ~ 164.514 (d) (3) (iii) (A) of the HIPAA Privacy regulations.**

I assure you that CIRTS values and understands that the relationship between you and your patients and their families is a very special one, and we're committed to making sure that all aspects of patient confidentiality and privacy will be protected. With your ongoing cooperation, we will continue to be one of the top states in the nation with the highest childhood immunization rates.

If you have any questions regarding HIPAA compliancy, please contact me at (860) 509-7929.

Sincerely,

Vincent Sacco  
State Immunization Program Manager