

Data Provision Notice

COVID-19: Collection of 12-15 year-old pupil data from the Department for Education – Spring 2022

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre (“NHS Digital”) statutory powers under section 259(1)(b) to request data from bodies corporate where it has been directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or NHS England.

The Secretary of State has directed NHS Digital to collect, process and analyse data in connection with COVID-19 to support the Secretary of State’s response to COVID-19 and support various COVID-19 purposes including those set out in the COVID-19 Public Health Directions 2020, 17 March 2020 (“COVID-19 Direction”). NHS Digital is directed to do this where either requested or as NHS Digital reasonably considers to be necessary to achieve COVID-19 purposes as part of the COVID-19 co-ordinated response.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this published Data Provision Notice, is required for a COVID-19 purpose. Accordingly, organisations that are in scope of the notice are requested, pursuant to section 259(1)(b) of the Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

Purpose of the collection

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS England has been commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to operate the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. NHS Digital is the owner of the Personal Demographics Service (PDS) and is the Controller for the data contained within the PDS.

As the organisation with operational responsibility for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in England, NHS England needs to monitor and accurately report on uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine within the 12-15 year-old cohort. This extends to monitoring and reporting on uptake of the vaccine by school so that informed decisions can be made in relation to whether further efforts are required for the purposes of vaccine call and re-call or to further encourage vaccine uptake within this particular cohort.

The Department for Education (DfE) has a data set of pupils, aged between 12 and 15 years old, which consists of pupil demographics and a school unique reference number indicating which school each pupil attends. Children aged between 12 and 15 years-old are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. It is necessary for NHS Digital to collect this data from the DfE so that it can then link the data with each pupil’s NHS Number using the PDS. A list comprising each pupil’s NHS Number and school unique reference number can then be provided by NHS Digital to NHS England. NHS England will then be able to link the data with COVID-19 vaccination event data so that it can perform the necessary uptake monitoring and reporting.

NHS England and NHS Digital have agreed that they should each be a Controller of the data set that will be produced under the [COVID-19 Public Health \(NHS England\) Directions 2020](#) (COVID-19 Directions).

NHS England has requested NHS Digital, under the COVID-19 Direction, to:

- Analyse the data received from the DfE under this request and identify the NHS Numbers for each pupil.

- Provide the NHS Numbers and school unique reference numbers only to NHS England so that NHS England can perform the necessary monitoring and reporting. Only the NHS Number and school unique reference number for each pupil will be provided to NHS England. The other items obtained within the data collected from DfE (necessary for NHS Digital to perform the analysis and identify each pupil's NHS Number using PDS) will not be provided to NHS England.

Benefits of the collection

The benefits of the collection are that it will enable NHS England to monitor and report on vaccine uptake by school. This will enable informed decisions to be made in relation to whether further efforts are required for vaccine call and re-call purposes or to further encourage vaccine uptake within the 12-15 year-old cohort. This is, therefore, for the purposes of protecting the public and the wider health service against the COVID-19 virus.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis and dissemination

The Secretary of State has directed NHS Digital, under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of information about COVID-19. A copy of the Direction is published here.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-anddata-provision-notices/secretary-of-state-directions/covid-19-public-health-directions-2020>

The Directions include provisions to enable NHS Digital to collect and analyse information at the request of the Directing organisation or as NHS Digital otherwise determines necessary to achieve the COVID-19 purposes as part of the co-ordinated health and care sector response to COVID-19.

This information is requested by NHS Digital as a Controller under section 259(1)(b) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of NHS Digital's duty under section 259(8) of the Act.

The legal basis for the collection and analysis of the personal data will be under Article 6(1)(c) (legal obligation) and Article 6(1)(e) (public interest task) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation ("UK GDPR").

There will be no dissemination of the data collected from the DfE other than the school unique reference number. The school unique reference numbers and relevant NHS Numbers will be disseminated to NHS England.

The legal basis for the dissemination of the personal data will be under Article 6(1)(c) (legal obligation) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation ("UK GDPR").

Persons consulted

NHS Digital has, as required under section 258 of the Act, consulted with the following persons:

- NHS England and NHS Improvement
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Department for Education

Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(b) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS Digital duty under section 259(8) on the following persons:

- Department for Education (“DfE”)

Under section 259(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the organisation types specified in the above Scope may choose as to whether they comply with the requested Form, Manner and Period details below.

Form of the collection

NHS Digital has requested to collect, as Controller under section 259(1)(b), a list of the demographic and school unique reference number data held for:

All children recorded on roll in the 2021 autumn (October) school census who were aged between 12 and 15 (inclusive) at the 31 August 2021 plus any aged 11 at 31 August 2021 who turn 12 by the end of the spring term – i.e. pupils born on or between 1 September 2005 and 31 March 2010. For each child in scope, the following items will be provided:

- Surname
- Forename
- DOB
- Gender
- (Pupil) Postcode
- School Unique Reference Number (URN)

Under section 259(1)(b) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS Digital duty under section 259(8) on DfE as the Controller for this information.

Manner of the collection

NHS Digital will collect the data by way of secure data transfer from DfE.

Period of the collection

Processing may start as early as March 2022 and is expected to last for no longer than 12 months. Once the NHS Numbers and school unique reference numbers have been supplied to NHS England, the data will be retained by NHS Digital for a period of 3 years or for as long as may be required for the purposes of preserving evidence relevant to the COVID-19 Public Inquiry – should such a period exceed the aforementioned three year retention period.

Burden of the collection

In discharging its statutory duty to seek to minimise the burden it imposes on others, NHS Digital has limited the request to only the data required to meet the objective of the processing. A burden assessment has not taken place due to the urgency of the collection.

For further information

www.digital.nhs.uk

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