

Data Provision Notice

COVID-19 Vaccine Data Collection

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as NHS Digital and hereafter referred to by this name, statutory powers, under section 259(1)(a), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide publicly funded health or adult social care in England, where it has been directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or NHS England.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this published Data Provision Notice, is required to support the Covid-19 Public Health NHS England Directions 2020, from NHS England to NHS Digital. Therefore, organisations that are in scope of the notice are legally required, under section 259(5) 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. As part of the Programme, NHS Digital acts as a processor of Vaccination Status Data and Adverse Reaction Data (the **Vaccine Data**) for NHS England, a copy of which is stored in the NHS Digital Data Processing Service (**DPS**).

There is a need for the Vaccine Data to be made available to a number of organisations for COVID-19 purposes and therefore NHS England and NHS Digital have agreed that NHS Digital should also become a joint controller of the Vaccine Data held in DPS with NHS England under the [COVID-19 Public Health \(NHS England\) Directions 2020](#) (COVID-19 Directions) to facilitate the analysis, linkage and dissemination of the Vaccine Data to requestors who have an appropriate legal basis to process it. This will maximise the efficiency of dissemination of the Vaccine Data for the benefit of the healthcare system and urgent COVID-19 research, including research into the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

NHS England have therefore requested NHS Digital under the COVID-19 Directions to:

- Analyse the Vaccine Data which is held by NHS Digital in the DPS in accordance with the COVID-19 Directions, including analysis through linking the Vaccine Data to other data in respect of which NHS Digital is a controller. This would create Linked Vaccine Data.
- Publish the Vaccine Data or any Linked Vaccine Data, including aggregate data where either requested to do so by NHS England or where NHS England and the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme have first consented to the publication. Consent is required as NHS England is the sole source of the Vaccine Data for statistical and governmental reporting purposes and controls the timing and manner of publication of the Vaccine Data.
- Disseminate the Vaccine Data or Linked Vaccine Data to those who request it, using NHS Digital's statutory functions to disseminate the data, including under the COVID-19 Directions and the NHS Digital COPI Notice provided that:
 - the Vaccine Data is only disseminated to a requester that already processes data it has previously obtained from NHS Digital, or NHS England consents to the dissemination of unlinked Vaccine Data, and
 - the requester has made a request for the data through the NHSX Front Door process. This includes any requests made by NHS England or NHS Improvement.

NHS England and NHS Digital have agreed to work together in relation to requests made to either of them for access to Vaccine Data or Linked Vaccine Data in accordance with the attached Joint Controllership and Collaboration Protocol, which may be updated as NHS Digital and NHS England agree from time to time.

This Protocol is published on the NHS Digital website, alongside this Data Provision Notice: <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/data-provision-notice-dpns/covid-19-vaccine-data>

Benefits of the collection

The data will be employed to support COVID-19 purposes as set out in the COVID-19 Directions, and will ensure that data is made available to any nationally and locally commissioned COVID-19 services and research studies that provide benefit to patients as part of the national COVID-19 programme. NHS Digital will also be able to link Vaccine Data to appropriate national data sets.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

NHS Digital has been directed by NHS England under section 254 of the Act to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the information specified in this Notice. A copy of the Direction is published here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/nhs-england-directions/covid-19-public-health-nhs-england-directions-2020>

This information is required by NHS Digital as a controller under GDPR under section 259(1)(a) 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.

Persons consulted

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

- NHS England
- Department of Health and Social Care
- NHSX
- HDR UK.

Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(a) 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:

- NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England)

Under section 259(1) and (5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the organisation types specified in the above Scope must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below.

Form of the collection

NHS Digital is entitled to collect as controller under section 259(1)(a) all COVID-19 vaccination results and adverse reaction data it holds in its DPS as a processor for NHS England from the outset of the service. The data sets are composed of:

Dataset	Composition
COVID-19 Vaccination Status Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient demographics • Source organisation • Vaccination details • Vaccine batch details
COVID-19 Vaccination Adverse Reaction Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient demographics • Source organisation • Adverse reaction details

Its scope covers:

- Anyone vaccinated within England
- Anyone vaccinated in a Devolved Administration where this information is subsequently passed to England.
- Any individuals vaccinated overseas, limited to those presenting at English services having had a vaccination which is one of the products recognised as being suitable for collection within this asset.

Under section 259(1)(a) 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 NHS England as the controller for this information.

Manner of the collection

The Vaccine Data has already been collected by NHS Digital as a processor on behalf of NHS England into the NHS Digital DPS and therefore will be taken from the DPS.

Period of the collection

The collection will commence from the date this DPN is provided to NHS England and will continue until the COVID-19 Directions expire (or are replaced by other directions) or NHS Digital and NHS England agree to cease the collection.

Burden of the collection

NHS Digital notes that the information is already held electronically by NHS Digital in its DPS. In discharging its statutory duty to seek to minimise the burden it imposes on others NHS Digital will therefore re-use the data set already held in DPS.

For further information

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