



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders
Chief of Staff

May 2008

Dear Superintendents, Principals, School Administrators, and School Nurses:

The New York State Department of Health Immunization Program's Online School Assessment Survey (OSAS) is now available for schools in New York State to use. The goal is to have at least fifty percent of public school districts and non-public schools submit their annual mandated immunization survey online in the 2008-09 school year, and the remaining districts and non-public schools ready to submit online for the 2009-10 school year.

Benefits of OSAS:

- Elimination of the most frequent completion errors,
- Automatic compilation of district immunization summary data for school districts, and
- Instant confirmation that the immunization survey data has been submitted.

Before schools can access the online survey, Health Provider Network (HPN) accounts need to be obtained. For school districts and non-public schools that already have HPN accounts, accounts need to remain active by logging on to the HPN at least every 60 days. If your account becomes inactive, please call 1-866-529-1890 to reactivate it.

The benefits of the HPN include:

- The HPN is a secure system that is accessible via the Internet -- anytime, anywhere.
- Up-to-date information on important and timely public health issues is available.
- The HPN provides access to the latest NYS health alerts.

HPN accounts are also necessary to access the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). Schools will be able to use the system to look up immunization records for students attending their schools. Implementation of schools' access to NYSIIS is scheduled for 2009. Schools will also need HPN accounts to complete online reporting of Students Weight Status Category, required to be implemented in September 2009 by Education Law Sections 903 and 904.

To request information on how to obtain an HPN account, send an e-mail to

osas@health.state.ny.us. If you have any questions, please call Linda Nardacci or me at 518-474-1944.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Stiles-Tice". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robin Stiles-Tice
Public Health Representative
Immunization Program

cc: Linda Nardacci
Local Health Department Commissioners
Public Health Directors