

Harris County  
**HCPHES**  
Public Health & Environmental Services

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Dear Provider:

Each year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts the National Immunization Survey (NIS), which provides local estimates of vaccine coverage among children aged 19-35 months. NIS data is used to identify groups at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases, inform stakeholders as a part of efforts to increase coverage and evaluate the effectiveness of programs designed to increase coverage.

The NIS is conducted in two phases. First, CDC conducts a telephone interview with randomly selected parents and/or guardians of children aged 19-35 months to determine the immunization status of their children. Second, CDC mails an NIS Immunization History Questionnaire (IHQ) to the child's immunization provider(s), as identified by the parent/guardian during the telephone survey. The IHQ is intended to verify the immunization history provided by the parent/guardian.

Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES) recognizes that many children in the Harris County area receive immunizations from more than one provider, making it difficult for providers to fully complete the IHQ. Therefore HCPHES would like to assist your practice in completing any IHQs that you receive from CDC.

If your practice receives an IHQ, we ask that you please verify the child's name, date of birth and current address. If you are able to complete the full questionnaire from information that you have available at your practice, attach a copy of the child's immunization history to the IHQ and mail the completed questionnaire back to CDC. However, if you are not able to complete the full questionnaire, please contact HCPHES. Our staff will assist you in completing the questionnaire by searching multiple sources and conducting home visits to obtain the most complete copy of the child's immunization record.

For assistance completing IHQs, please contact Ms. Afi Quashie RN, Hepatitis Nurse Specialist, at 713-439-6106. For any other immunization-related questions, you may contact me at 713-439-6113.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely,



Lois Austin, MSN, MPH, RN  
HCPHES Immunization Program Coordinator