

Protecting the Privacy of Your Immunization Record

Your personal health information is confidential and the Regional Health Authorities and First Nations Jurisdictions that deliver public health services, along with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health take great care to ensure that your health information is protected. Your immunization health information is kept in confidence and is only used or disclosed with your consent or as permitted by law. Immunization records are stored in Panorama, an electronic immunization registry used by the Ministry of Health, Regional Health Authorities, and some First Nations Jurisdictions to record and manage the immunization records of all Saskatchewan residents.

1. What is Panorama?

Panorama is a secure electronic health record system designed to record and store immunization related information. Your confidential immunization information is only available to authorized health care workers, such as members of your public health team, physicians, and nurse practitioners across the province using secure networks.

2. When is my immunization information recorded into Panorama?

Immunizations are recorded into Panorama every time you receive a vaccine from a Regional Health Authority or First Nations Jurisdiction that delivers public health services. Immunization information will also be recorded in Panorama if your immunization history is provided to Public Health by your physician or nurse practitioner. This information is recorded into Panorama to ensure the completeness and accuracy of your immunization record and promote client safety.

3. How is my immunization information used in Panorama?

The Ministry of Health, Regional Health Authorities, and First Nations Jurisdictions strive to reduce and control serious diseases that vaccines can prevent. Panorama provides the information needed by public health professionals to achieve the best possible immunization coverage rates in our communities and protect all Saskatchewan residents.

Information recorded in Panorama may be used to:

- Notify you if you or your child needs an immunization based on age, risk factors, or eligibility criteria.
- Communicate with other health care professionals that provide public health services; to control the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases; and assist with diagnosis and treatment of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Manage your immunization records.
- Monitor how vaccines are preventing communicable diseases in your community.

4. What information is recorded in Panorama?

- Your full name, current address, date of birth, and health services number (we call this demographic information).
- Immunization information such as the vaccine name, immunization date, dosage, and the reason(s) you were immunized (eligibility criteria/risk factors). This will include routine vaccines and non-routine vaccines (those provided for individuals with chronic health conditions).
- While adverse events following immunization are rare, details of specific adverse events will be recorded in Panorama.

5. How is my privacy protected?

The following safeguards are in place to ensure only healthcare professionals involved in an individual's care can use the personal health information stored on Panorama:

- All healthcare providers are made aware of their security responsibilities and must agree to maintain the confidentiality of information and use it only on a need-to-know basis. All users must complete a confidentiality agreement before being allowed to use Panorama.

- Entry in to the system is only provided to authorized users who are involved in delivering immunization services.
- Authorized users are given unique user names and passwords which are not to be shared and all users receive training on when records can and cannot be used or disclosed.
- There are policies, practices, and computer systems in place that are designed to protect information from unauthorized use, error, and loss.
- Authorized users sign, and are legally bound by, all necessary confidentiality agreements.
- All authorized users have specific permissions based on their roles and these permissions restrict their use of the data in Panorama.
- In addition, network security systems are in place that are actively and routinely monitored and which permit auditing of any user's account activity.
- A person can request that their record on Panorama is made "not" viewable to other health care providers. If the individual presents for services and consents to have their record used, or there is an imminent health need to review the individual's record then the individual's record will be "flagged" and can be audited. All uses, including viewing, of any individual's health record in Panorama can also be audited.

6. How can I get more information on Panorama?

If you have additional questions or concerns about Panorama and the privacy of your immunization information, you can call your Regional Health Authority, First Nations jurisdiction, and/or your local public health nurse. Further Information is also available at www.ehealthsask.ca/panorama.

7. Is all of my child's immunization information, or my information, recorded into Panorama?

Yes. Information about vaccines that Public Health nurses and other healthcare providers give to you or your child is recorded in Panorama. This ensures that

your complete immunization record is available to authorized healthcare providers and yourself, wherever you live in Saskatchewan or wherever you seek public health services.

A complete immunization record is often required when a person attends university or college, applies for certain jobs, or chooses to travel in Canada or abroad. Sometimes, it is required when you present for urgent care at an emergency room.

If your immunizations are not complete, healthcare providers will recommend additional vaccines for you and your child to protect you and your child against serious diseases in the future.

8. What if I have a concern or complaint about the privacy of my personal health information in Panorama?

If you have concerns regarding the use of your personal health information, talk to your public health practitioner or immunization provider. If you still have concerns, talk to the appropriate supervisor or manager responsible for Public Health services within your Regional Health Authority or First Nations jurisdiction. If you wish to register a formal complaint regarding a privacy issue, you are encouraged to contact the Privacy Officer in your Health Region or First Nation health agency. Or, you can also contact the Ministry of Health and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

9. How can I get a copy of my immunization record?

You have the right to read or request a copy of your immunization record. If you would like a copy of your, or your child's, immunization record, ask your public health practitioner or immunization provider.