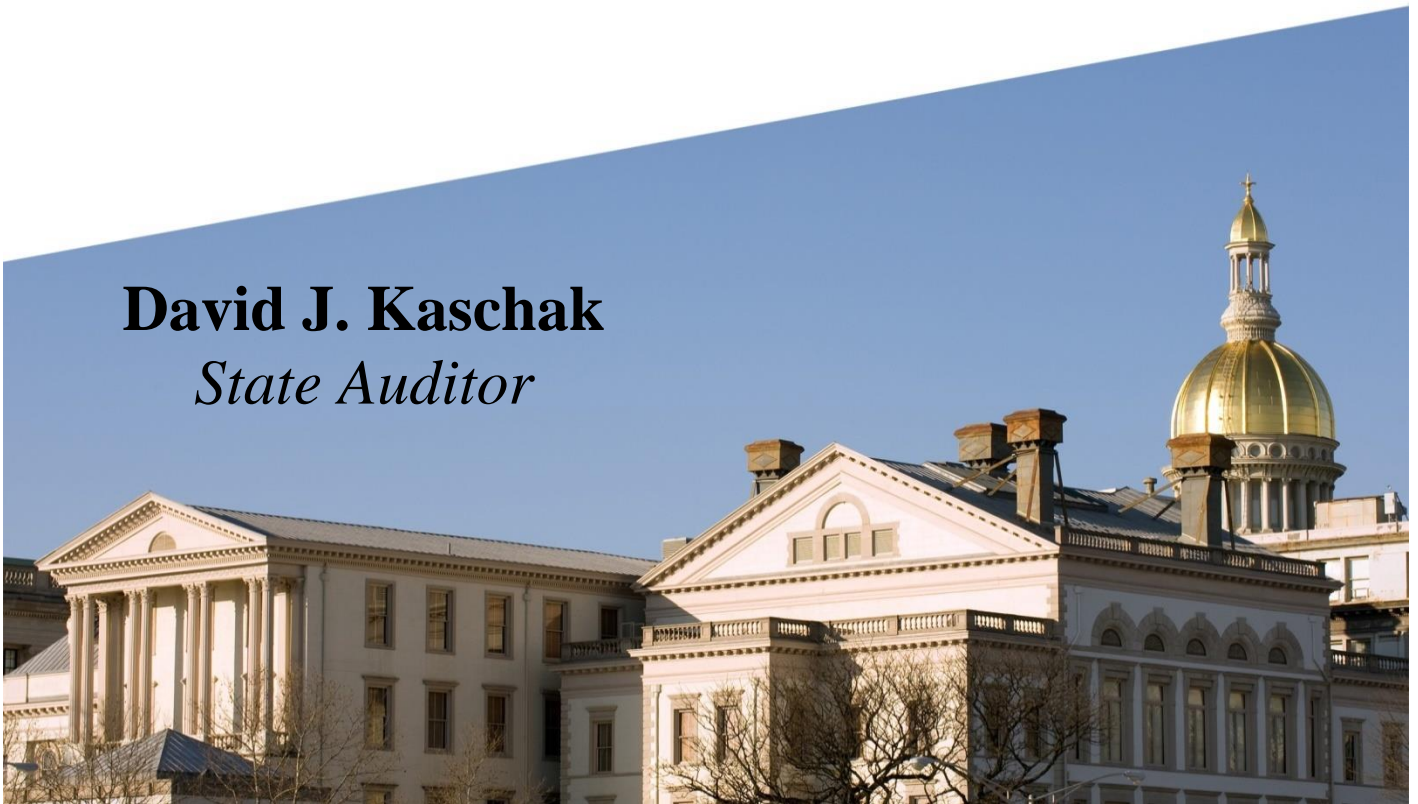


NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

Department of Health
New Jersey Immunization Information System - Data Security

April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

David J. Kaschak
State Auditor



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The Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari
President of the Senate

The Honorable Craig J. Coughlin
Speaker of the General Assembly

Ms. Maureen McMahon
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Enclosed is our report on the audit of the Department of Health, New Jersey Immunization Information System – Data Security for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. If you would like a personal briefing, please call me at (609) 847-3470.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. Kaschak".

David J. Kaschak
State Auditor
July 15, 2025

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Scope

We have completed an audit of the Department of Health (department), New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) – Data Security for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. The scope of our audit included logical access, configuration security, and vulnerability management.

Objectives

The objective of our audit was to determine whether the department has adequate data security controls and processes in place to safeguard NJIS data from unauthorized access, modification, or destruction.

This audit was conducted pursuant to the State Auditor’s responsibilities as set forth in Article VII, Section I, Paragraph 6 of the State Constitution and Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes.

Methodology

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. Additional guidance for the conduct of the audit was taken from the *CIS Configuration Benchmarks* published by the Center for Internet Security and the *New Jersey Statewide Information Security Manual (SISM)* published by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. These documents were used as the criteria against which internal controls were measured.

In preparation for our testing, we studied legislation, administrative code, Office of Information Technology (OIT) circulars, department policies and procedures, system documentation, and industry best practices. Provisions we considered significant were documented, and compliance with those requirements was verified by interview, observation, and through our testing of the data security controls.

A nonstatistical sampling approach was used in situations where the entire population was not tested. Our samples were designed to provide conclusions on our audit objectives, as well as internal controls and compliance. Sample populations were sorted, and transactions were judgmentally selected for testing. Because we used a nonstatistical sampling approach for our tests, we cannot project the results to the respective populations.

Data Reliability

We assessed the reliability of the data in the NJIS by interviewing agency staff familiar with the data as well as reviewing database structure and configuration. In addition, data integrity

testing was performed as part of the audit and found no issues. We determined that the data was sufficiently reliable for the purposes of this report.

Conclusions

Overall, we found that the Department of Health has data security controls and processes in place to safeguard NJIIS data from unauthorized access, modification, or destruction. However, we noted areas where improvements in controls and processes are needed. These reportable conditions were deemed confidential in nature and have been communicated in a management letter provided to agency management only.

Background

The New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS) was established in 2004 by N.J.S.A. 26:4-134, and its purpose and scope are defined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-3. The NJIIS is managed by the Department of Health's Vaccine Preventable Disease Program and functions as a statewide repository of immunization data for the citizens of New Jersey. It consolidates immunization and vaccine information from all healthcare providers into one official record. The NJIIS supports public health efforts by monitoring vaccine coverage across the state, identifying at-risk populations, and improving the state's ability to respond to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

For citizens born on or after January 1, 1998, records are required to be entered in the NJIIS; however, individuals and parents (on behalf of their children) retain the right to opt out of having their information stored in the registry. For patients in the registry, the system provides current recommended immunization schedules from birth through adulthood. For citizens born before January 1, 1998, healthcare providers are not required to backload immunization history into the NJIIS. Citizens can access the data in the NJIIS through either a manual request for their records or a mobile application for themselves and their children.

For healthcare providers, the NJIIS offers access to a patient's complete immunization history, helps determine when immunizations are due, and allows for the generation of immunization reports and reminders. Schools and childcare centers also benefit from the NJIIS by verifying that students meet state immunization requirements, thereby reducing administrative burden and improving compliance.

Participation in the NJIIS is mandatory for many healthcare providers, particularly those administering immunizations through the Vaccines for Children program, who are required to report immunization data to the system.

Items Reported Under Separate Cover

Our audit disclosed reportable conditions deemed confidential in nature. Those conditions were communicated in a management letter provided to agency management only. The findings and recommendations contained in the management letter are subject to the Office of the State Auditor's compliance process as required by N.J.S.A. 52:24-4.





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JEFFREY A. BROWN
Acting Commissioner

July 14, 2025

For the attached, Confidential Draft Report, (*Confidential Draft Report for NJ Department of Health, Immunization Information System, Data Security.pdf*) (to be made public) we have no comment.

We have responded to the items in the Confidential Management Letter under separate cover.



Swami ojha (Jul 14, 2025 09:07 EDT)

07/14/25

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