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## **STC Completes Two Assessments to Enhance Immunization Services in Washington State**

Integrating school nurses into the routine Immunization Registry user community and improving the effectiveness of Mass Immunization events were the subjects of two recently completed assessments by STC, commissioned by the Immunization Program of the Washington State Department of Health.

School nurses are an important potential registry user due to their annual contact with the majority of Washington children ages 5 and older. However, a number of complex business processes have prevented their widespread use of the registry. Among the findings of STC's School Nurse Module Assessment, based on extensive field interviews with local school nurses, are discussions of common business processes that impact user interface and system functionality, as well as detailed descriptions of modifications to STC's School Nurse Module, already deployed within Washington State. With a relatively small number of process and functional enhancements, Washington State will have the ability to engage the majority of school nurses in using the statewide registry to confirm, properly account for, and improve student vaccination status, a requirement for school attendance in that state.

In another assessment, STC conducted possibly the most detailed examination of Mass Immunization business processes anywhere in the nation, using the recent Novel H1N1 Influenza experience of ten interviewed Local Public Health Jurisdictions, as well as an On-Line Survey and After Action Report reviews which yielded data from 31 of the state's 35 local health jurisdictions. Findings and recommendations pertained to the six different models of Mass Immunization events (such as school-based, pharmacy-based, private provider-based) commonly deployed within the state in response to the Novel H1N1 pandemic. Also addressed was the use and future enhancement of information technology to expedite event flow, event staffing and promotion; improve data handling; and institute quality assurance and improvement measures.

Each of these assessments will likely form the foundation for future changes in public health practice and information systems services delivery, benefiting both public health officials and Washington State residents.