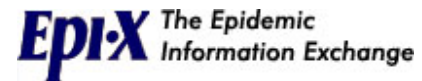




# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## Privacy Policy Notice

Thank you for using the *Epi-X* system and for reviewing *Epi-X*'s Privacy Policy.

The Epidemic Information Exchange (*Epi-X*) is a secure, electronic communication system designed to enable local, state, and federal health officials to share information about recent outbreaks and other health events rapidly. CDC manages and supports *Epi-X* in collaboration with sponsoring public health organizations and under the general direction of an editorial board.

Users of the *Epi-X* system have been granted access to *Epi-X* on the basis of a signed *Epi-X* User Agreement. As an *Epi-X* user, they will have access to sensitive provisional information including:

- information about disease outbreaks and other health events contributed by local, state, and federal health agencies,
- discussion about the possible causes of these outbreaks and health events,
- requests for assistance to respond to these outbreaks and health events, and
- access to the directories of *Epi-X* users and other public health personnel.

This information is shared with *Epi-X* users to help anticipate, identify, and respond to health problems in communities and to alert other *Epi-X* users of outbreaks or other health events that might affect their areas. High Risk and magnitude of harm would result from the misuse or unauthorized access to the system.

While using *Epi-X*, certain information will be gathered and stored. *Epi-X* collects and stores only the following PII (personally identifiable information):

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Recent location
- Suspected or confirmed illness
- Treatment

## Information Security and Confidentiality

### *Freedom of Information Act*

Current and archived material on *Epi-X* and *Epi-X Forum* is subject to release through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Some *Epi-X* and *Epi-X Forum* information can be withheld from release if it meets statutory exemptions. Statutory exemptions allow federal agencies to withhold records if they are

- an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy,
- confidential or proprietary business information,
- law enforcement or criminal investigation records, or
- part of a decision-making or deliberative process and the release of information prematurely might cause foreseeable harm.

### *Use of Cookies*

CDC webpages use two types of “cookies” session-based and persistent. The majority of cookies used are session-based. These bits of information are stored temporarily in your computer’s random access memory (RAM) as a line of text. When you close your browser, the cookie is destroyed and no trace of it remains on your hard drive. These session cookies are used solely as a method to improve the user experience for those visiting the site. In very few cases, the CDC web site uses persistent cookies to store information for a longer period. In those cases, **the webpage is clearly noted** and the user can choose not to use that webpage feature. As noted above, in no case does CDC disclose, give, sell, or transfer any personal information about CDC web site visitors unless required for law enforcement or otherwise required by law.”

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