



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 20, 2020

Re: NYSDOH as a SHIN-NY Data Supplier or Data Provider During COVID-19 Outbreak

Dear SHIN-NY QEs and QE Participants:

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a declared public health emergency. As part of the response to the current situation, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is utilizing all available health information technology sharing resources including the Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY).

To promote the timely dissemination of crucial information in support of the public health emergency response, NYSDOH will distribute COVID-19 data through the existing SHIN-NY network. This distribution of data will complement and enhance the existing permitted channels to distribute vital information during public health emergencies, including to inform critical clinical decision making. The SHIN-NY is a utility that enables timelier and more accurate information linkages and allows information to be accessed electronically supporting social distancing.

NYSDOH is performing these actions under the Department's authority for public health emergencies as authorized by PHL § 206 and therefore, it does not affect or alter the current NYSDOH Participation Agreements with the Qualified Entities nor the SHIN-NY Policies and Procedures. This response is consistent with the Governor's State of Emergency declaration and public health authority in situations of public health emergencies.

During the time that the public health emergency for COVID-19 is in effect, and any time after as determined by the Governor, NYSDOH will provide data directly to the SHIN-NY Qualified Entity health information exchange networks (QEs) in support of the public health emergency response. All information data safeguards will remain in place to ensure the information stays protected and only the minimum necessary information will be sent in accordance with state guidelines. Data supplier provisions are applicable as are the local, state and federal laws and regulations that govern the data provided as well as any NYSDOH Emergency Event response related policies or guidance.

The SHIN-NY Policies and Procedures can be found here:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/technology/regulations/shin-ny/docs/privacy\\_and\\_security\\_policies.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/technology/regulations/shin-ny/docs/privacy_and_security_policies.pdf) and questions concerning this or other SHIN-NY policies can be sent to [shin-ny@health.ny.gov](mailto:shin-ny@health.ny.gov).