



Federal Health IT Coordinating Council

COVID-19 Vaccine Credentials Discussion

March 2, 2021

Federal Health IT Coordinating Council

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology





Roll Call

Seth Pazinski, Director, Strategic Planning & Coordination Division,
Office of Policy, ONC

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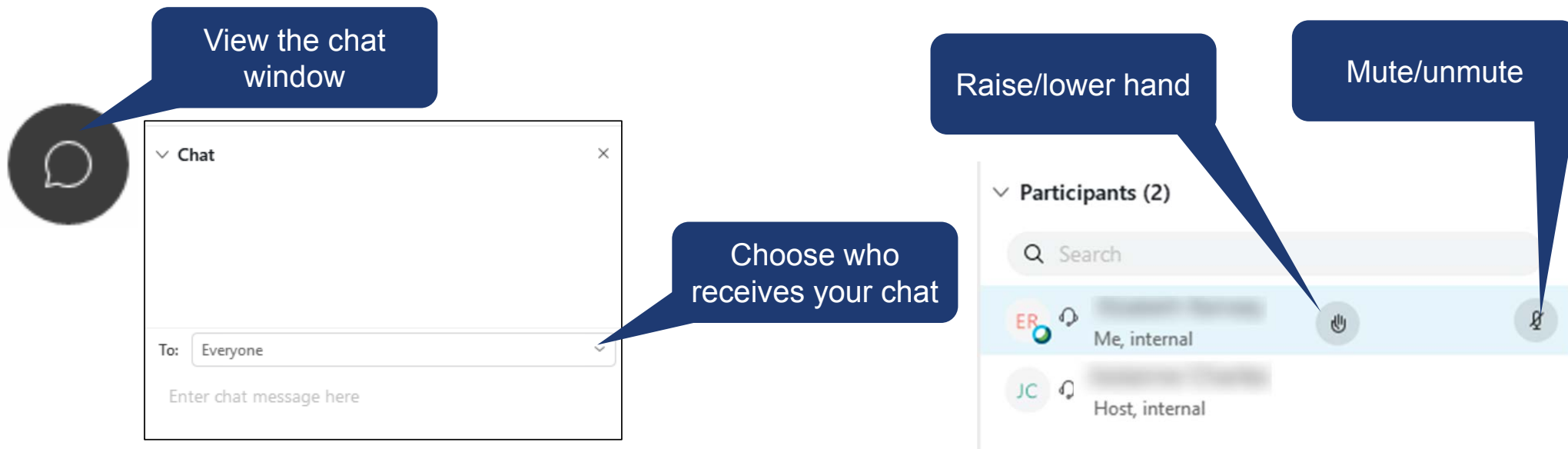


Virtual Meeting Attendees

All attendees are muted upon entry. If you have a comment or question during the presentation, please use the “**chat**” feature or the “**raise hand**” function. During discussions, please remember to unmute your line in the WebEx and on your phone. **To mute/unmute if connected via phone only, press *6.**

This meeting will be recorded and the recording will be located on the max.gov page.

If you have any issues participating, email FHIT.CoordinatingCouncil@hhs.gov.





Introductory Remarks

Micky Tripathi, National Coordinator for Health IT, ONC

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Goals for Today

- **HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is charged by statute with coordinating health IT activities across the Federal government**
- **HHS has designated ONC as the lead agency for:**
 - Coordination and alignment of vaccine credential activities across HHS agencies
 - Representing a unified HHS perspective with other Federal entities, private sector initiatives, and international organizations
- **ONC will use the Federal Health IT Coordinating Council as forum for raising awareness of initiatives across Federal agencies, identifying inter-dependencies and areas of possible misalignment, assisting with issue resolution, facilitating development of a Federal approach as appropriate, and communicating progress to the White House COVID Response Coordinator**
- **We are kicking off that process today by inviting any Federal agency with interest in vaccine credentials to share their use cases, requirements, and activities**
 - ONC will build a shared database of initiatives and contacts for future meetings as well as a resource for Federal agencies to work with each other
- **In addition, we would like to get group input on:**
 - Initiatives not represented at the meeting today
 - Feedback landscape framework
 - Areas for discussion at the next meeting

Verifying COVID Health Status

- **Proof of individual COVID-related health status is likely to be an important component of pandemic response**
 - Prevents further spread of disease and builds public confidence to speed the return to normal day-to-day activities
- **Testing as proof of health status is already required today by many public and private entities (such as state governments, workplaces, universities, commercial air carriers, etc)**
 - However, it's very difficult to develop practical mechanisms for a universally acceptable representation of test results because test administration is highly fragmented and testing quality is highly variable
 - Proof of COVID health status thus remains a localized activity
- **As more of the population becomes vaccinated, proof of immunization will likely become a major, if not the primary, form of health status validation**
 - Validity and credibility of vaccination status is easier to scale than diagnostics, at present
 - Though vaccine credentials are likely to have much higher adoption as proof mechanisms than testing, test results will remain an important mechanism in many circumstances, such as for people unable or unwilling to vaccinate

Vaccine Credentials - A Key Element of Recovery Efforts

Proof of vaccination for certain activities is not new

What is new is that such proof may be a critical driver for restoring baseline population health and promoting safe return to social, commercial, and leisure activities

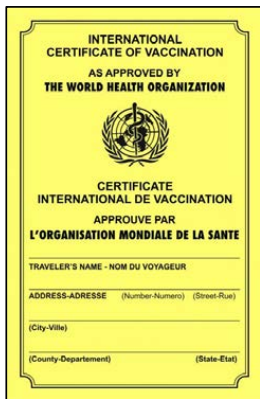
Policy and technical infrastructure will thus need to address not only international entry, but also access to private and public facilities within the US

- Use cases for day-to-day activities rather than just international port-of-entry checks

Without some type of nationwide coordination, landscape could become littered with a confusing array of incompatible, proprietary solutions of varying quality and trustworthiness

- Creates adoption barriers if individuals are burdened by managing different solutions for each of their activities
- Presents risks to individual privacy, system security, and protections against fraud

A chaotic and ineffective vaccine credential approach could hamper our pandemic response by undercutting health safety measures, slowing economic recovery, and undermining public trust and confidence



COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.
Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Patient number (medical record or ID record number): _____

Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1 st Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
2 nd Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	

Market Is Racing Ahead



The Federal Government Needs a Unified Policy

- **From a Federal perspective, vaccines and vaccine credentials are matters of individual choice – there is no mandate for either**
 - However, current trends suggest that vaccine credentials could nevertheless become a market-imposed *de facto* requirement for an individual's return to day-to-day activities
- **Federal government will inevitably be involved with vaccine credential solutions, even if just transactionally**
 - Federal entities, like their commercial counterparts, will likely require vaccine verification for a variety of purposes such as entry into the country or into Federally-owned civilian and military facilities, both domestic and abroad
 - Federally-owned or -funded supporting infrastructure will be critical “sources of truth” for issuers of vaccine credentials, or may become issuers in their own right (principally public health immunization registries, but also government vaccine administration sites such as VA and Indian Health Services hospitals and government-funded Federally Qualified Health Centers)
 - State and local jurisdictions are already setting or contemplating independent policies which would yield a lack of uniformity across the country
- **A unified Federal approach is thus required to ensure that Federal activities are working toward the same common goals for vaccine credentials**
 - Federal government has a strong interest in how this plays out, and its actions will guide the pace and direction of the market
 - The market is already seeking unified direction from the Federal government on what role it will play, if any, with respect to vaccine credential policies and solutions
 - Public interest in ensuring universal accessibility, privacy safeguards, security protections, and fraud prevention, all of which advance Administration goals contained in the *American Rescue Plan* and the *National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness*, such as restoring trust with the American people, safely reopening schools, businesses, and travel, protecting workers, and protecting vulnerable populations
 - Ubiquity of vaccine credentials in market could become perceived as a Federal mandate even though there is none, thus it will be vital for the Federal government to communicate with one voice on the issue



Overview of Existing Initiatives

Avinash Shanbhag, Executive Director, Office of Technology,
ONC

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Current Landscape of Vaccine Credential Initiatives

About the Vaccination Credential Initiative

The Vaccination Credential Initiative (VCI) brings together healthcare organizations, technology firms, nonprofits, academia, and startups working to empower consumers to conveniently access, store, and share digital COVID-19 vaccination records.



World Health Organization open call for nomination of experts to contribute to the Smart

The Commons Project, The World Economic Forum and a broad coalition of public organizations are collaborating to launch CommonPass, a trusted, globally-recognized digital credential to document their COVID-19 status (health status and vaccination status) to satisfy country entry requirements, while protecting privacy.

IATA Travel Pass Initiative



To re-open borders without quarantine and restart aviation, governments need to be confident that they are effectively mitigating the risk of importing COVID-19. This means having accurate information on passengers' COVID-19 health status.

Informing passengers on what tests, vaccines and other measures they require prior to travel, details on where they can get tested and giving them the ability to share their tests and vaccination results in a verifiable, safe and privacy-protecting manner is the key to giving governments the

confidence to open borders. To address this challenge IATA is working on launching the IATA Travel Pass, a digital platform for passengers.

IBM Digital Health Pass

Designed to provide organizations with a smart way to bring people back to a physical location, such as a workplace, school, stadium or airline flight.

Vaccine credential initiatives take many forms

Solving different parts of the problem

- Standards
- Solutions/applications
- Trust frameworks










Many are single (or small group) of companies developing solutions based on proprietary standards

Small number are broader-based collaborations based on open-industry standards








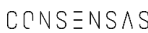
- Smaller subset using standards aligned with current Federal health IT regulations

Federal agencies are participating *ad hoc* independently in various initiatives

Current Landscape of Vaccine Credential Initiatives

Initiative	Technical Approach	Standard Vs Solution	Lead Organization
 Smart Vaccination Certificate	Interoperable digital Credentials based on open standards	Standards	World Health Organization
 CommonPass and CommonHealth	Open credential standard and Quick Response (QR) code	Solution based on open standards	The Commons Project Foundation and World Economic Forum
 IATA Travel Pass	Using Vaccine Credentials standard and QR Code	Solution with Trusted Partners	International Air Transport Association (IATA)
 COVID-19 Credentials Initiative (CCI)	Privacy-preserving verifiable credential	Standard and Solution	Linux Foundation Public Health
 ICC AOKpass	Platform and mobile application using blockchain technology	Standard and Solution with trusted Partners	The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
 Skyflow for Healthcare	Proprietary Standard	Solution with trusted partners	Skyflow (Private Company)
 VeriFLY	Proprietary Standard	Solution with trusted partners	Daon (Private company)
 CoronaPass	Proprietary Standard	Solution for COVID-19 policy implementation and risk management	Bizagi (UK software company)
 Vaccination Credential Initiative (VCI)	Open standards based on FHIR and W3C Verifiable Credentials standard	Open Standard	The Commons Project Foundation, Epic, Evernorth, Mayo Clinic, Microsoft, MITRE, Oracle, Safe Health, Salesforce.

Current Landscape of Vaccine Credential Initiatives

Initiative	Technical Approach	Standard Vs Solution	Lead Organization
 IBM Digital Health Pass	Blockchain-based platform	Open Standards based Solution	International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)
 MIT SafePaths Vaccination Cards	Augment existing infrastructure to support end to end privacy and encryption	Standards and Solution for both App and non-App	MIT
 Boost-19 for Vaccination and Covid-19 EN App	Exposure Notification using Google Apple Exposure Notification	Solution based on open Standard	PathCheck Foundation
 Vaccine Diary Protocol	Cryptographic protocols for vaccine eligibility, dose coordination, and reporting side effects	Open Standard	Trusted Pandemic Technologies (MIT and Brown University)
 Good Health Pass	Developing Trust Framework	Trust Framework	MasterCard
 Proofing Citizens' COVID-19 Vaccination	Proprietary Standard	Solution for digital Identity	1Kosmos BlockID (Private Company)
 CANImmunize App	Not known	Solution	Canadian Health System
 Consensus Information Passport	Based on W3C Verifiable Credentials Standard	Solution for digital immunization passport	Consensus (private company)



Open Discussion

Steven Posnack, Deputy National Coordinator for Health IT, ONC
Elise Sweeney Anthony, Executive Director, Office of Policy, ONC

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Vaccine Credential Landscape

Vaccine Administration

Hospitals
Office-Based
Pharmacies
Mass vaccination/Ad-hoc



Will be “single sources of truth”

Vaccine Info Aggregators

Immunization registries (IIS)
Surescripts
PBMs
HIEs



Will be “aggregate sources of truth”

Credential Solutions

Mix of proprietary
standards-based
company vs collaboration
single-purpose vs general use



ONC is currently tracking nearly
20 credentialing initiatives

Credential Requestors

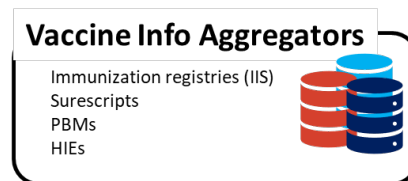
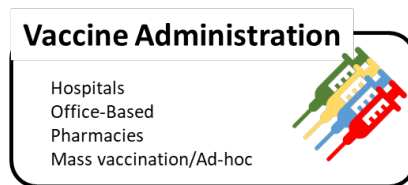
Airlines, Restaurants,
Entertainment, Employers,
Federal agencies, etc.



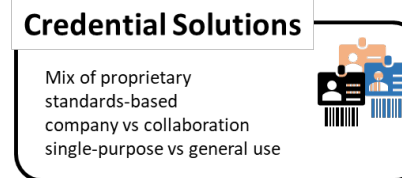
Domestic and international

Vaccine Credential Landscape: Sampling of Issues to Resolve

- Ability to output credential
- Ability to consume externally created credential
- Organization workflows and policies
- Which solutions to trust
- Which requestors to trust



- IIS system readiness
- State/local law variation
- Quality & completeness of data
- Which solutions to trust
- Which requestors to trust



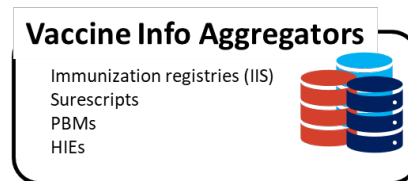
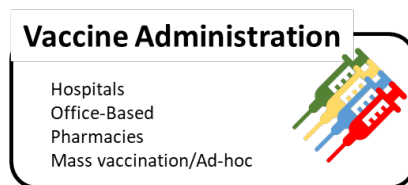
- Varying standards (content, format, transport)
- Form factor variation (digital vs non-digital option)
- Security/authenticity/fraud
- Which requestors to trust
- Which issuers to trust



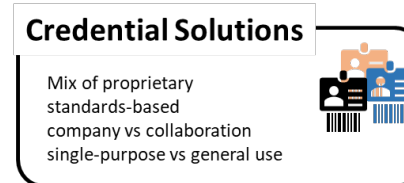
- Reciprocity w/ non-preferred apps
- Commerce/industry specific requirements
- Which solutions to trust
- Which issuers to trust

Vaccine Credential Landscape: Potential Federal Activities

- VA providers
- DoD providers
- IHS providers
- Other agency providers
- Federally-subsidized providers
- Recipients of vaccine allocations from Federal government



- Federal and state Immunization Information Systems infrastructure



Will there be Federal uses?

- International and domestic travel
- Access to Federal facilities
- Access to VA/DOD and military facilities
- Federal health care providers for continuity of care

Federal Agency Round Robin

Please take 3-5 minutes to describe:

- Your agency's interest in vaccine credentials (use cases)
- High-level requirements that are being considered or may be considered by your agency
- Current activities (planned or underway)
- Concerns

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA COVID-19 Response Vaccine Status

Federal Health IT Coordinating Council

March 2, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

VIRTUAL



VA COVID-19 RESPONSE: VACCINE STATUS

- VA is currently engaged in activities related to COVID-19 vaccination status.
- The VA Office of Information Technology is engaged with the Vaccine Credential Initiative.
 - We are implementing a VA-issued vaccine credential per the HL7 SMART Health Cards FHIR Implementation Guide which is a core component of Vaccine Credential Initiative's strategy.
 - Technical requirements necessary to represent COVID-19 vaccination status implementing the SMART Health Cards framework are based on both HL7 standards and VA technical constraints and requirements.
- The Veterans Health Administration, as a healthcare delivery organization, currently tracks vaccine status within the context of clinical care:
 - Electronic Health Record (CPRS/VistA, Cerner)
 - Occupational Health Record
 - VHA-Federal Agency Partnerships. VHA providing vaccination to federal agency partners.
 - CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Record Card
 - Internal reporting with data collected from the VHA electronic health records and community claims data.
 - External reporting to CDC (de-identified)
 - Public reporting of aggregate COVID-19 vaccination data for the Veteran population on the VA Access to Care website.
 - 3rd-party Veteran-facing applications enabled with VA APIs.
 - Future support for a larger pool of applications and direct Veteran access without API integration.



VA Access to Care Website Department of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 National Summary

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest integrated health system in the United States with more than nine million enrolled Veterans and over six million Veterans receiving healthcare each year. VA employs nearly 380,000 individuals including more than 350,000 professionals within the Veterans Health Administration.

This report summarizes what we know about the status of COVID-19 patients who have been tested or treated at VA facilities.

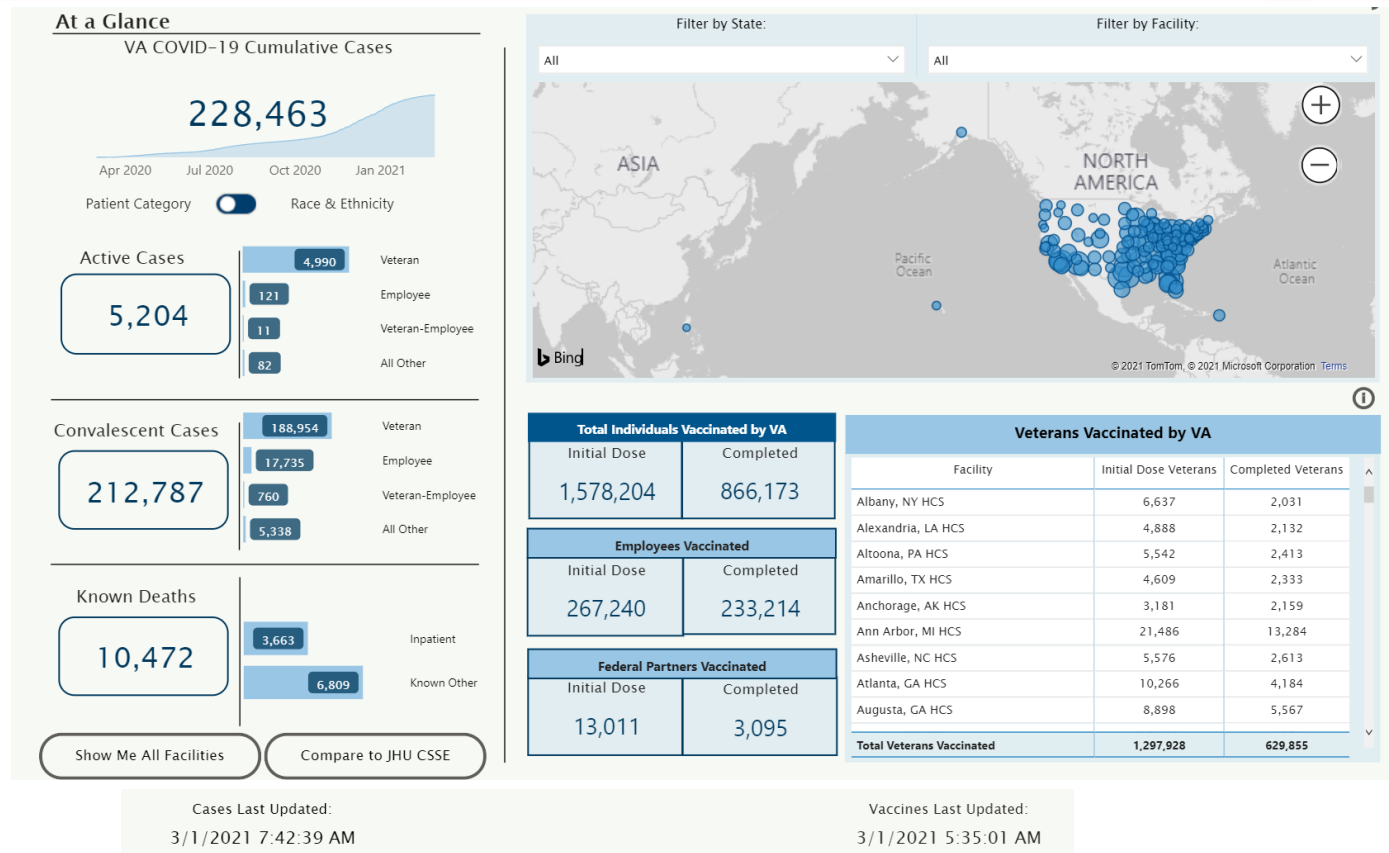
To get the latest updates and sign up to stay informed about COVID-19 vaccines, visit our [vaccine information page](#)

<https://www.accesstopwt.va.gov/Healthcare/COVID19NationalSummary>



VA Access to Care Website

Department of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 National Summary



<https://www.accesstopwt.va.gov/Healthcare/COVID19NationalSummary>



Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Steven Posnack, Deputy National Coordinator for Health IT,
ONC

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High-Level Workstreams – to be refined on an ongoing basis

- 1. Landscape assessment – Federal, private sector, and international activities**
- 2. Synthesis of Federal Agency use cases and requirement**
- 3. Federal policy, regulatory, and business approaches and levers**
- 4. Consensus development of Federal government policy framework**
 - Private ↔ Government
 - Standards ↔ Solutions
 - Regulatory ↔ Market action
 - Formal ↔ Informal governance

Summary and Next Steps

- **Synthesis and Summary**
- **Next Steps**
 - **ONC will reach out off-line to gather more information about your initiatives**
 - **Next meeting will be week of March 22-26**
 - **Tentative agenda:**
 - Sources of Truth
 - Credential Standards and Solutions
 - Credential Requestors
 - Trust Framework

Thank you for your continued partnership!

Please contact the Federal Health IT Coordinating Council at:

FHIT.CoordinatingCouncil@hhs.gov