



Physician's Guide to Reporting Adverse Events after Vaccination

As a health care professional involved with vaccinations, you can help to ensure the optimal safety of the U.S. immunization program by promptly and accurately reporting any significant adverse event that occurs following vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS is the national program that monitors the safety of vaccines after they are licensed and is jointly administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDA and CDC analyze VAERS data to identify potential new vaccine safety concerns that may need further study. The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 mandates that health care providers report specific adverse events that occur after vaccination.

What Types of Events Should I Report?

Please report all significant adverse events that occur after vaccination of adults and children, even if you are not sure whether the vaccine caused the adverse event. It is especially important to report any adverse event that resulted in hospitalization, disability, or death. Healthcare providers are required by law to report certain adverse events. To get a list of these, please call 1-800-822-7967 or go to www.vaers.hhs.gov/reportable.htm. Providers are also encouraged to report adverse events that are not listed in the Table of Reportable Events.

How Do I Report?

It's very easy to report to VAERS. VAERS reports may be reported two ways:

1. Directly to VAERS via the Internet at: <https://secure.vaers.org/VaersDataEntryintro.htm>, by fax at 1-877-721-0366 (toll-free), or by mail at VAERS, P.O. Box 1100, Rockville, MD, 20849-1100
2. Directly to the Texas DSHS via fax at: 1-866-624-0180 (toll-free), or by mail at: DSHS, Immunization Branch, MC 1946, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347

A VAERS report form is included and may be downloaded from the VAERS web site at www.vaers.hhs.gov. Alternatively, you may request a VAERS form by sending an email to info@vaers.org, by calling toll-free 800-822-7967, or by sending a faxed request to 877-721-0366.

VAERS Report forms are also available for printing at www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/c-76.pdf or by calling the Department of State Health Services, Immunization Branch Information Line at (800) 252-9152. After you submit a report, a staff member may contact you for additional information.

VAERS does not provide medical advice. For medical advice, please contact your healthcare provider or state health department.

Additional VAERS information may be obtained at the following links:

DSHS at: www.ImmunizeTexas.com

VAERS at: <http://vaers.hhs.gov/>

FDA at: www.fda.gov/cber/vaers/vaers.htm

CDC Vaccine Safety at: www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/

Vaccine Safety and Adverse Events at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/safety/default.htm

National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP): www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/