



VAERS Information Guide



What is VAERS?

VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System) is a national surveillance system co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Its purpose is to identify potential safety concerns in U.S. licensed vaccines by analyzing reports of adverse events following vaccination.

Who can report to VAERS?

Anyone can send a report to VAERS. Patients, parents, and health care providers are encouraged to report adverse events, or any clinically important medical event or health problem, occurring after vaccination. Vaccine manufacturers must report all adverse events that come to their attention. Patient identity is kept confidential.

What do you need to report?

- ▶ Patient information (date of birth, sex)
- ▶ Date and time of vaccination
- ▶ Date and time when adverse event(s) started
- ▶ Description of adverse event(s), treatment, and outcomes (symptoms, signs, time course, etc.)
- ▶ Vaccine information (type and brand name, manufacturer, lot number, route, body site, dose number in series)
- ▶ Result or outcome of adverse event(s)

How can you report an adverse event to VAERS?

Please visit www.vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html to access the report. You should only submit the report once via one of the following methods:

- ▶ **ONLINE** (preferred): The report must be completed and submitted in one sitting. Information cannot be saved and will be erased if you are inactive for 20 minutes.
- ▶ **FAX**: 877-721-0366
- ▶ **MAIL**: VAERS: P.O. Box 1100, Rockville, MD 20849-1100

How do you know if your report was received?

If you provide contact information when you submit a VAERS report, you will receive a confirmation number electronically or a VAERS identification number by mail, depending on your reporting method.

Are there reporting deadlines?

No. However, you are encouraged to submit a report promptly after an adverse event occurs to provide VAERS with important information for vaccine safety monitoring and research.

Is VAERS involved in the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program?

No. The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. It is separate from VAERS. Reporting an adverse event to VAERS is unrelated to filing a claim for compensation with the VICP. For more information, please visit their website or call 800-338-2382.



To learn more about VAERS, please visit www.vaers.hhs.gov/ or call 1-800-822-7967.

