

The VAERS Project

Provider Tool: Education Reference Guide

Who: All patients who are recipients of vaccinations.

When: Prior to vaccination, non-routine appointments after vaccination, or with suspicion of Adverse Event (AE).

Why: So that patients can seek follow-up care, only one report is made, and to ensure highest level of vaccine safety.

What: Any AE occurring after vaccination.

How: Using VAERSproject.com resources and those available through a healthcare facility.

Necessary information:

- ☞ Ask the patient: “May I share information with you about the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System or VAERS?” The following mirror the information on the Patient VAERS Report Information Sheet which should be provided to the patient.
- ☞ VAERS is the **national adverse event reporting system** and is an **important part of vaccine safety science**.¹
- ☞ VAERS is passive, meaning **it needs help from patients and providers to ensure reports are made**. Patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers are all encouraged to report to VAERS.¹
- ☞ Reports should be made any time **a patient has an unexpected health issue or, *adverse event*, after vaccination**. The report does **not** mean that the issue is related to the vaccine. **The CDC & FDA ask that all adverse events are reported**.¹
- ☞ By reporting all adverse events, VAERS scientists can look for **rare side effects that can only be found when the vaccine is used in the large population** after clinical trials. VAERS also helps make sure that **manufacturing and handling** doesn't impact certain vaccines or batches. It also can **help identify administration errors**.¹ VAERS serves a very important purpose.
- ☞ If you, or your child have an adverse event you can make a report or **talk with your healthcare provider so they can make a report**. No matter who makes the report, you should **keep a copy of the confirmation number and report for your records**.²
- ☞ **Only one report needs to be made**,³ so it is also important that the VAERS report becomes **part of your health history with all your healthcare practitioners**. Be sure to share a copy of the report and confirmation number with each of your providers.
- ☞ If needed, you or your provider, can submit more information to VAERS after the initial report. If you didn't get a copy of your report, you may be able to get one from VAERS by calling (800) 822-7967 or info@vaers.org or the FDA.²
- ☞ Individuals who have been injured or deceased as the result of a vaccine injury **may be eligible for compensation** through the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program or the Countermeasure Injury Compensation Program. **Petitions for compensation are time sensitive**. Get more information from your provider or by visiting injurycompensation.hrsa.gov

1. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. (n.d.). About VAERS: Background and Public Health Importance. Retrieved September 3, 2022, from <https://vaers.hhs.gov/about.html>

2. VAERS. (n.d.). Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Retrieved September 3, 2022, from <https://vaers.hhs.gov/faq.html>

3. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. (n.d.). VAERS Data. Retrieved September 3, 2022, from <https://vaers.hhs.gov/data.html>