

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

VAERS Instructions

What events should I report to VAERS?

VAERS encourages the reporting of any clinically significant adverse event that occurs after the administration of any vaccine licensed in the United States. You should report clinically significant adverse events even if you are unsure whether a vaccine caused the event.

The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program requires health care providers to report:

- Any event listed by the vaccine manufacturer as a contraindication to subsequent doses of the vaccine.
- Any event listed in the Reportable Events Table that occurs within the specified time period after vaccination.
- Any thing related to misadministration of a vaccine, even if it does not result in an adverse event, should be reported. This includes vaccines given outside the recommended range or administration of expired vaccine.

A good rule of thumb for completing a VAERS form to report potential administration errors or adverse events is, when in doubt fill it out.

How do I complete and submit the VAERS form?

All sections of the VAERS form must be completed in full. Do not leave anything blank unless the form indicates it is not for your use.

If you are reporting an administration error rather than an adverse event then it is important to document that no adverse event occurred and describe the error in block 7 on the form.

Once you have completed the form in full please fax it to the Immunization program at 1-800-558-6335, notify the project Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator at 558-2195 or by email and keep a copy of the form for your records. The Immunization program will submit the report to the CDC and will also keep a copy on file.

Why should I report to VAERS?

Each report provides valuable information that is added to the VAERS database. Accurate and complete reporting of post-vaccination events supplies the information needed for evaluation of vaccine safety. The CDC and FDA use VAERS information to ensure the safest strategies of vaccine use and to further reduce the rare risks associated with vaccines.