



VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Effects Reporting System)

What is VAERS?

VAERS is a nationwide system of gathering reports of adverse health effects following vaccination. The system depends on people reporting an adverse event. Usually medical clinicians submit reports, but anyone can submit a report online or through fillable forms.

Adverse events range from minor (sore arms, irritation at needle site, etc.) to very serious such as allergic reactions and even death. Adverse events are reported whether or not they are thought to have been caused by the vaccine.

Health care providers are required to submit reports of certain events according to the manufacturer's list of contraindications, as well as very serious events such as death and birth anomalies in pregnant women.

COVID-19 vaccine providers are required to report administration errors, serious events and cases of COVID-19 after vaccination that result in hospitalization or death.

Why is VAERS important?

Vaccines are thoroughly tested before approved, but VAERS can reveal previously undetected patterns and problems with vaccines.

VAERS can't determine whether a vaccine caused or did not cause an adverse event. People who are vaccinated can still get sick from other causes unrelated to the vaccine.

Even though VAERS cannot tell whether a vaccine caused an adverse event, it can give the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) important information that might signal a problem.

If it looks as though a vaccine might be causing an adverse event, FDA and CDC will investigate further.

VAERS is the only [medication-specific](#) system for reporting associated adverse events. Safety is assessed more closely for vaccines than for any other medication.

How can I access VAERS?

People wishing to submit an adverse event after vaccination or access data in VAERS can visit the website: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsoha.state.or.us.