-- Indian Health Service, National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee --

Reporting a Suspected Vaccine Adverse Event

The safety of modern vaccines is based on scientific evidence obtained through clinical research and pharmacovigilance. Although rare, adverse events related to vaccine administration may occur. When you suspect an adverse event, it should be documented in the patient's medical record and a report submitted through the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS is an on-line tool that can be used to easily submit suspected ADEs related to vaccine administration.

Healthcare providers are ***required by law*** to report to VAERS if:

- Any adverse event listed in the VAERS Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination occurs within the specified time period after vaccinations.
- An adverse event is listed as a contraindication to further doses of the vaccine.

Healthcare providers are strongly ***encouraged*** to report to VAERS if:

- Any potential adverse event occurs after the administration of a vaccine.
- Any vaccine administration errors occur.

1. Open a web browser and go to: https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select "**Option 1 - Report Online to VAERS**."
3. Begin filling out the form with as much information that you can provide.
4. Click the "**Next**" button at the bottom of the page to go on to the next page.
5. When you reach item #26 (called Immunization project report number), it is very important that you enter the letters "***IHS***." This enables the CDC to identify American Indian/Alaska Native patients treated at Federal, Tribal, and Urban programs and to evaluate vaccine safety among our patient population.

6. Once you have completed the form, please select the "**Submit**" button.

For more information about documenting or reporting adverse vaccine or drug events, please visit the IHS Pharmacovigilance website or contact Chris.Lamer@ihs.gov