

## The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986

NVIC's co-founders worked with Congress on the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. Under this law by November 2012, more than \$2.5 billion has been awarded for vaccine injuries and deaths suffered by over 3,000 children and adults.

This historic law acknowledged that vaccine injuries and deaths are real; that the vaccine injured and their families should be financially compensated; and that vaccine safety and informed consent protections were needed in the mass vaccination system.

The law set up the federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) and included the following legal requirements for vaccine providers to:

- give parents and/or individuals vaccine benefit and risk information before vaccination;
- keep written records of vaccine manufacturer names and lot numbers for each vaccination given;
- enter serious health problems following vaccination into a child's or individual's permanent medical record; and
- report serious health problems following vaccination to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).

NVIC provides as a public service, information, resource referral and counseling.

Visit [www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org) for more information on vaccine injury and the vaccine injury claims process.

## About Us

The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) is a national, charitable non-profit organization founded in 1982. NVIC is dedicated to the prevention of vaccine injuries and deaths through public education and to defending the informed consent ethic in medicine.

NVIC does not give medical advice. We support the availability of all preventive health care options, including vaccines, and the right of consumers to make educated, voluntary health care choices.

## Our Work

NVIC provides the following programs and services to the public.

- Public education about vaccination and diseases;
- Independent analysis and monitoring of vaccine development, regulation, policy-making, and legislation;
- Consumer advocacy to protect informed consent to vaccination in public health laws;
- Promotion and funding of research to evaluate vaccine safety and identify high risk factors for vaccine injury;
- Information and counseling for the vaccine injured.

### Protect Vaccine Choices in Your State

Go to [www.NVICAdvocacy.org](http://www.NVICAdvocacy.org) and learn how to take action to protect medical, religious and conscientious belief exemptions to vaccination that special interest lobbyists want to limit or remove in your state laws.



[www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org)  
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*If You Vaccinate*

# Ask Questions



Your Health.  
Your Family.  
**Your Choice.**

## DID YOU KNOW...

Vaccines are pharmaceutical products, which carry risks that can be greater for some than others. NVIC encourages health care consumers to become fully informed about both the risks and complications of diseases and vaccines before making a vaccine decision.

## REPORTING VACCINE REACTIONS

Recognizing an adverse vaccine reaction is critical for seeking appropriate medical attention. Doctors are required by law to report all adverse vaccine reactions to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS is also open to the public and individuals may report an adverse vaccine reaction to this system.

For more information on reporting adverse vaccine reactions, contact NVIC at [www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org)

## Ask If You Vaccinate!

1. Am I or my child sick right now?
2. Have I or my child had a bad reaction to a vaccination before?
3. Do I or my child have a personal or family history of vaccine reactions, neurological disorders, severe allergies or immune system problems?
4. Do I know the disease and vaccine risks for myself or my child?

## VACCINE INJURY

Do you know how to recognize a vaccine reaction or injury? Do you know what steps to take if you, or your child experience a serious reaction that leads to long-term health problems?

Not all symptoms that occur following vaccination are caused by the vaccine(s) recently received, but it cannot be automatically concluded that symptoms which do occur are **not** caused by a vaccine.

It is important for your doctor to record **ALL** serious health problems, symptoms or dramatic changes in physical, mental or emotional behavior that occur following vaccination in permanent medical records and report them to federal health officials.

Until it has been determined that any serious health problem, which developed after vaccination was **not** causally related to the vaccination(s), further vaccination may significantly increase risks for more serious health problems.

5. Do I have full information about the vaccine's side effects?
6. Do I know how to identify and report a vaccine reaction?
7. Do I know I need to keep a written record, including the vaccine manufacturer's name and lot number, for all vaccinations?
8. Do I know I have the right to make an informed choice?

## IDENTIFYING VACCINE REACTIONS

If you or your child experiences any of the symptoms listed below in the hours, days or weeks following vaccination, it should be reported to VAERS. Some vaccine reactions symptoms include:

- **Pronounced swelling, redness, heat or hardness at injection site;**
- **Body rash or hives;**
- **Shock/collapse followed by unresponsiveness, deep sleep;**
- **High pitched screaming or hours of persistent crying;**
- **Changes in sleep/wake pattern, and dramatic personality changes;**
- **High fever (over 103 F);**
- **Twitching or jerking of the body, arm, leg or head;**
- **Weakness/paralysis of any part of the body;**
- **Crossing of eyes, loss of eye contact, awareness or social withdrawal;**
- **Loss of ability to roll over, sit up or stand up;**
- **Head banging or unusual flapping, rubbing, rocking, spinning;**
- **Joint pain or muscle weakness;**
- **Disabling fatigue;**
- **Loss of memory;**
- **Onset of chronic ear or respiratory infections, breathing problems (including asthma);**
- **Severe/persistent diarrhea, or chronic constipation;**
- **Excessive bruising, bleeding or anemia.**

If you answered yes to questions 1, 2, and 3, or no to questions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and do not understand the significance of your answers, please visit [www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org) for more information.

**Informed consent to medical risk-taking is a human right!**