

## About The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986

NVIC's co-founders worked with Congress to secure vaccine safety provisions in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, which created a no-fault, non-adversarial federal vaccine injury compensation program (VICP) alternative to a civil lawsuit against vaccine manufacturers and doctors. By July 2015, over \$3 billion had been awarded for vaccine injuries and deaths suffered by more than 4,000 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 are needed in the mass vaccination system.

The law gave vaccine manufacturers a partial shield from product liability lawsuits for vaccine injuries and deaths. In 2011 the U.S. Supreme Court majority ruled that vaccines are "unavoidably unsafe" and effectively eliminated all product liability for drug companies marketing federally licensed and government recommended vaccines.

Under the 1986 law, vaccine providers are required to provide parents of minor children and adults with written Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) before vaccines are administered; keep written records of vaccine manufacturer names and lot numbers for each vaccine given; enter serious health problems following vaccination into the permanent medical record; and report serious health problems following vaccination to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).

## About Us

The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) is a charitable non-profit organization founded in 1982. NVIC is dedicated to preventing vaccine injuries and deaths through public education and defending the informed consent and precautionary principles in vaccine policies and laws.

NVIC does not give legal or 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 without penalty.

## Our Work

NVIC provides the following programs and services to the public:

- Public education about vaccines and diseases;
- Analysis and monitoring of vaccine research, regulation, policy-making, and legislation;
- Health choice advocacy to secure informed consent protections in vaccine policies and laws;
- Promotion of quality scientific research into vaccine safety questions and identification of high risk factors for vaccine injury;
- Counseling, information and resource referral for the vaccine injured.

## Protect Vaccine Choices in Your State

Go to [NVICAdvocacy.org](http://NVICAdvocacy.org) and learn how you can take action to protect medical, religious and conscientious belief vaccine exemptions in vaccine policies and laws.

Visit [NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org) for more information on vaccine injuries and how the federal vaccine injury compensation program works.



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*Know the Facts  
to Stay Healthy  
This Flu Season*



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

## Seasonal Influenza: Quick Facts

1. Influenza is a respiratory infection caused by type A and B influenza viruses. There are hundreds of different viruses that cause influenza or other kinds of respiratory and gastrointestinal “influenza-like illness” in humans and animals.
2. About 70 - 80 percent of all suspected influenza-like illness lab specimens test negative for type A or B influenza viruses every flu season;
3. Influenza symptoms can last a week or more and include fever, chills, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, cough, diarrhea and vomiting.
4. Serious complications of influenza include dehydration, bacterial ear and sinus infections, bronchitis and pneumonia, which can lead to injury or death if not promptly diagnosed and treated;
5. Those at higher risk for influenza complications include persons 65 years or older, young children, pregnant women, and anyone with chronic autoimmune, lung, heart, kidney or blood disorders.
6. In the past two decades, annual influenza deaths reported and recorded in the U.S. range between 250 and about 3,000. CDC officials acknowledge they do not confirm or know exactly how many Americans die from influenza every year.

## Seasonal Influenza Vaccine: Quick Facts

1. There are two types of influenza vaccines available in the U.S.: inactivated injectable vaccine and live attenuated nasal spray vaccine. Depending upon the vaccine manufacturer, different flu vaccines are licensed for use in different age groups.
2. There are a number of influenza vaccines, both inactivated injectable and live nasal spray, that contain three or four influenza virus strains and are produced using either chicken eggs or genetically-engineered dog kidney or caterpillar cells. Influenza vaccines sold by different drug companies contain various ingredients, including preservatives and adjuvants that may cause reactions. Go to [NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org) to learn more.
3. Every year, public health officials try to predict which three or four influenza strains are most likely to circulate throughout the world and include them in the flu vaccine;
4. According to the CDC, the overall vaccine effectiveness for seasonal influenza vaccines, for 2005-2015 was found to be 10 to 60 percent effective and the elderly received little or no protection. The long-term safety and effectiveness of genetically-engineered and four-strain influenza vaccines, which were licensed by FDA in 2013, is not yet known.

5. Frequently reported influenza vaccine reactions include fever, fatigue, joint and muscle pain and headache. Serious flu shot complications are shock, brain inflammation, wheezing/asthma, narcolepsy and paralysis, including Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS).
6. Influenza vaccine risks are higher if given to someone who is sick; is allergic to an ingredient in the vaccine; has a history of GBS or has had previous vaccine reactions;
7. Influenza vaccine injury and death claims are the leading claims submitted to the federal vaccine injury compensation program and the second most frequently compensated.
8. Many influenza vaccine studies are not well designed and have failed to demonstrate that influenza vaccine is effective or safe for all children and adults with or without health problems, including pregnant women, or when given simultaneously with other vaccines.

These “Quick Facts” are not intended to be medical advice. Before vaccination, consult one or more trusted health care professionals and learn more about diseases and vaccines at [NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org).

## Common sense ways to prevent influenza are to:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick. If you are sick, stay home.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Drink plenty of fluids, especially water, and eat healthy foods rich in vitamins C & D.
- Get adequate sleep, lower stress and exercise regularly when you are well.
- Consider holistic options like chiropractic, homeopathic, naturopathic and acupuncture to heal and stay well.

