

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 federal vaccine injury compensation program (VICP). By 2013, more than \$2.5 billion had 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 are needed in the mass vaccination system.

The 1986 law included the following legal requirements for vaccine providers to:

- Give parents of minor children and adults vaccine benefit and risk information before vaccination;
- Keep written records of vaccine manufacturer names and lot numbers for each vaccine given;
- Enter serious health problems following vaccination into the child or adult's 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 protecting informed consent and precautionary principles in public policy and law.

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:

- Information about vaccines and diseases;
- Independent analysis and monitoring of vaccine development, regulation, policy-making, and legislation;
- Consumer advocacy to protect informed consent provisions and vaccine exemptions in public health laws;
- Promotion 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 NVICadvocacy.org and learn how to take action to protect medical, religious and conscientious belief exemptions to vaccination that special interest lobbyists want to remove from state laws.

Visit 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*



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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 non-human protein and genetic materials, polysorbate, Thimerosal and other chemicals. Go to 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. The trivalent, egg based seasonal influenza vaccines manufactured for the 2012/2013 flu season, depending upon the strain, were found to be 9 to 56 percent effective and the elderly received little or no protection. The safety and effectiveness of the new genetically-engineered and four-strain influenza vaccines, approved in 2013 for future use in the U.S., is not 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 third 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.

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.

