

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL CHILDHOOD VACCINE INJURY ACT OF 1986

NVIC's co-founders worked with Congress to secure vaccine safety informing, recording and reporting provisions in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, which created the federal vaccine injury compensation program (VICP) as an alternative to a civil lawsuit against vaccine manufacturers and doctors. By June 2016, over \$3.3 billion had been awarded for vaccine injuries and deaths suffered by more than 4,500 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 1986 law required vaccine providers to provide parents of minor children and adults with written Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) before vaccination; 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).

After decades of abuse by federal health agencies and neglect by Congress, the VICP had become far too adversarial with a history of denying two out of three vaccine injured plaintiffs compensation and failing to adequately implement vaccine safety provisions. In 2015, NVIC publicly called for an end to the partial civil product liability shield that Congress gave to vaccine manufacturers in 1986 and the total liability shield given by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011 when the Court affirmed that government licensed and recommended vaccines are "unavoidably unsafe."

Visit [www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org) for more information on vaccine reactions and how to meet deadlines for filing a compensation claim in the VICP.

## 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 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, policymaking, 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.



[www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org)  
21525 Ridgetop Circle, Suite 100  
Sterling, VA 20166  
703-938-0342

Copyright 2016 - All Rights Reserved

*If You Vaccinate*

# Ask Questions



## Your Health. Your Family. Your Choice.

## DID YOU KNOW...

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

## REPORTING VACCINE REACTIONS

Recognizing a vaccine reaction is critical for seeking appropriate medical attention. All vaccine providers are legally required to report serious adverse events (hospitalization, injury, death, etc.) experienced by children or adults after vaccination to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Vaccine providers are also required to record adverse events following vaccination in an individual's permanent medical record. Consumers may also directly report any serious health problem that occurs after vaccination to VAERS for all vaccines.

For more information on vaccine reaction symptoms and reporting, [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?
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?

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 [NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org) for more information.

## VACCINE INJURY

Not all symptoms that occur following vaccination are caused by the vaccine(s) recently received. However, it cannot be automatically concluded that symptoms which do occur are not caused by a vaccine. There are also many reported vaccine reactions that have not been adequately studied before new vaccines are licensed and given to millions of people.

It is important for your vaccine provider to record ALL serious health problems, symptoms or dramatic changes in physical, mental or emotional behavior that occur following vaccination. This information should be recorded in permanent medical records and reported to VAERS.

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.

## 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.

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