

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 vaccine injury lawsuit in civil court. Under the 1986 Act, Congress gave vaccine manufacturers a partial product liability shield for vaccines covered by the VICP and the U.S. Supreme Court effectively gave vaccine manufacturers a complete liability shield in 2011.

By August 2018, \$4 billion in federal compensation had been awarded to more than 6,000 victims of vaccine injury and death, their families and attorneys.

The historic 1986 Act acknowledged that vaccine injuries and deaths are real; the vaccine injured and their families should be financially compensated; and that preventing vaccine injuries and deaths should be a national priority.

The 1986 law requires vaccine administrators to provide parents of minor children and adults with Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) published by the CDC 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, hospitalizations, injuries and deaths following vaccination to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).

Visit www.NVIC.org for more information on vaccine reactions and how to meet deadlines for filing a compensation claim in the VICP.

How Does NVIC Help?

About Us

The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) is a charitable non-profit organization founded in 1982 by parents of vaccine-injured children. NVIC is dedicated to preventing vaccine injuries and deaths through public education and to securing and defending informed consent protections in U.S. vaccine policies and laws.

NVIC does not make vaccine use recommendations or give legal or medical advice. We support the availability of all preventive health care options 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 and learn how you can take action to protect medical, religious and conscientious belief vaccine exemptions in vaccine policies and laws.

*Know the Facts
to Stay Healthy
This Flu Season*



Your Health. Your Family.
Your Choice.

 National Vaccine
Information Center

www.NVIC.org

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Seasonal Influenza: Quick Facts

- 1 Seasonal influenza is a viral infection caused by type A and B influenza viruses. The influenza virus mutates rapidly and there are many influenza virus strains, as well as other types of viruses and bacteria that cause respiratory and gastrointestinal “influenza-like illness” (ILI) infections in humans and animals.
- 2 About 70-80 percent of all respiratory infections that occur during the “flu season” are not caused by type A or type B influenza viruses. Only lab tests can confirm whether an individual has an influenza infection and the majority of ILI lab specimens test negative for influenza virus infection during most flu seasons.
- 3 Influenza symptoms can last a week or more and include sudden onset of high fever, chills, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, cough, diarrhea and vomiting.
- 4 Serious complications include dehydration and secondary bacterial infections such as otitis media (ear infection), 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 those with a weakened immune system, autoimmunity, asthma, obesity, or heart, lung, kidney, blood or neurological disorders.
- 6 In the past decade, there have been an average of 130 confirmed influenza deaths in persons under age 18 in the U.S. every year. CDC officials acknowledge they do not know exactly how many Americans die from influenza, but estimate there are between 12,000 and 56,000 influenza-related deaths annually. However, those numbers also include reported deaths attributed to pneumonia, circulatory and other respiratory illnesses that may or may not be associated with type A or B influenza.

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 Inactivated injectable and live nasal spray influenza vaccines contain three or four influenza virus strains and are grown in either chicken eggs, dog kidney cells or armyworm cells. Influenza vaccines sold by different drug companies contain various ingredients, including preservatives and adjuvants that may cause adverse reactions. Go to **NVIC.org** to learn more.
- 3 Every year, federal public health officials try to predict up to four influenza strains that are most likely to circulate throughout the world for inclusion in the flu vaccine. During the 2016-2018 flu seasons, the CDC suspended its recommendation for the live nasal vaccine FluMist based on its ineffectiveness. However, in 2018 the CDC re-issued a recommendation for use of FluMist during the 2018-2019 flu season.
- 4 According to the CDC, influenza vaccine effectiveness averaged less than 50 percent between 2005 and 2018, ranging between 10 to 60 percent. In most years, the elderly received little or no protection. The long-term safety and effectiveness of recently licensed four strain and genetically-engineered vaccines grown in canine and insect cells is still being evaluated.
- 5 Frequently reported influenza vaccine reactions include fever, fatigue, joint and muscle pain and headache. Serious reactions reported after receipt of flu shots include anaphylactic shock, brain inflammation, convulsions, wheezing/asthma, narcolepsy and paralysis, including Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), Bell's Palsy and death.
- 6 Influenza vaccine reaction 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 influenza vaccine reactions.
- 7 Influenza vaccine injury and death claims are the leading claims submitted to the federal vaccine injury compensation program and the most frequently compensated.
- 8 A number of influenza vaccine studies are not well designed and fail to demonstrate that the vaccine is effective and safe for all healthy and sick children and adults, 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. Learn more about diseases and vaccines at NVIC.org

Common sense ways to prevent illness 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.