

## Using the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) during the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Response

10/20/09

As a healthcare provider, you can help monitor the safety of vaccines by promptly and accurately reporting any clinically significant adverse event that occurs following vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Clinically significant adverse events are those events that are of concern to you or your vaccinated patients or their caregivers. Please report clinically significant adverse events after vaccination, whether or not you administered the vaccine and even if you are not sure if the vaccine caused the adverse event.

**Providers are encouraged to complete a timely report of clinically significant adverse events directly to VAERS. Also notify the Oklahoma State Department of Health Immunization Service (405) 271- 4073 during regular business hours or the Epidemiologist on Call at (405) 271-4060 of any severe adverse events linked to the H1N1 vaccination.**

Severe adverse events are those that are deemed life-threatening or require hospitalization for management such as: anaphylaxis and anaphylactic shock, brachial neuritis, chronic arthritis, arthralgia.

VAERS will be responsible for any H1N1 adverse event follow-ups.

### How to submit a VAERS report:

- Online via a secure website at – <https://vaers.hhs.gov>
- Download a reporting form: [www.vaers.hhs.gov/pdf/vaers\\_form.pdf](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov/pdf/vaers_form.pdf)
- Download Reportable Events Table at <http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/table.htm>
- Fax a completed form: 877-721-0366
- Mail a completed VAERS form to VAERS, P.O. Box 1100, Rockville, MD 20849
- To request a reporting form or for other VAERS assistance: call 800-822-7967 or email: [info@vaers.org](mailto:info@vaers.org)

### Healthcare providers can contribute to vaccine safety by:

- Properly storing vaccine and administer vaccine as directed
- Screening for contraindications and precautions
- Provide a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) to educate each vaccine (or caregiver) about risks and benefits of vaccine
- **Use the Influenza Vaccination Record and give to each recipient to keep**
- Evaluate and treat patient if an adverse event occurs.