



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

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Dear Healthcare Provider:

The challenging 2009-2010 influenza season is upon us and the advent of an additional influenza vaccine further emphasizes the need for appropriate vaccine safety monitoring. We expect the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to have a similar safety profile as seasonal flu vaccines, which have a very good safety track record. However, adverse events which may be coincidental to or caused by vaccination may occur following immunization.

As a healthcare provider in Michigan, you can help in the effort to monitor the safety of *all* vaccines, including the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine, 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. Anyone can report to VAERS but vaccinated patients or their caregivers are encouraged to seek the help of their health care provider in filling out a VAERS form. Please report clinically significant adverse events after vaccination, whether or not the vaccine was administered in your practice, and even if you are not sure if the vaccine caused the adverse event.

VAERS is a U.S. vaccine safety surveillance system, co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). CDC and FDA analyze VAERS reports to identify potential vaccine safety concerns that may need further study or public health action.

There are three ways to report to VAERS:

- 1) Submit via a secure website; accessible through <http://vaers.hhs.gov/esub>
- 2) Fax a completed VAERS form to 877-721-0366, or
- 3) Mail a completed VAERS form to VAERS, P.O. Box 1100, Rockville, MD 20849-1100.

For additional information on VAERS or vaccine safety, visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call 800-822-7967. A VAERS form may be downloaded from the VAERS website or you may request a VAERS form by sending an email to info@vaers.org, by calling toll-free 800-822-7967, or by sending a faxed request to 877-721-0366.

By reporting vaccine adverse events to VAERS, the public health system will continue to be able to rapidly detect potential risks for serious or new adverse events after vaccination. This knowledge facilitates improvements in the safety of vaccines. Thank you in advance for your participation. Together we can ensure that vaccination continues to be as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

Greg Holzman, MD, MPH

