



Health Alert Network Message 20-52: COVID-19 Vaccination Severe/Allergic Reaction Reporting Update

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COVID-19 Vaccination Severe/Allergic Reaction Reporting

Immediately (24/7) report severe COVID-19 vaccine reactions requiring hospitalization to the Office of Public Health (OPH) at 800-256-2748. Staff are available 24/7 to take information. There have not yet been any such events reported to OPH.

Individuals who receive a COVID 19 vaccine should be monitored. Persons with a history of anaphylaxis (an acute and potentially life-threatening serious allergic reaction) should be observed for 30 minutes. All other persons should be observed for 15 minutes.

Although rare, severe reactions are possible, and all facilities who vaccinate should be prepared to respond to a severe event. Vaccines should be observed for flushing, rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath, etc., and treated for anaphylaxis. All such reactions should immediately be reported to OPH.

Minor side effects are a normal sign that the body is building protection.

Common minor side effects include pain and swelling in the arm along with fever, chills, tiredness, or a headache often lasting 24-36 hours. Pain at the injection site can be relieved by applying a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area. The discomfort from fever, includes drinking plenty of fluids and dressing lightly. These normal side effects may feel like a minor flu and even affect the ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

The current COVID-19 vaccines require a 2-dose series. The second shot is recommended even if the recipient got minor side effects from the first shot. However, it is not recommended that a recipient get a second shot if they experienced severe side effects from the first dose.

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic even if vaccinated. Cover the mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash hands often.

Severe adverse events are rare, but could happen. Healthcare providers should report all severe reactions 24/7 to OPH at 800-256-2748.

This new state-level reporting process does not replace the need for all healthcare providers to also report all COVID-19 vaccination related adverse events/reactions to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) managed by the CDC and FDA. Reporting form can be found at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/esub/index.jsp>.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>